

SITK

SITKA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



An Administrative History

--Cover--

Sgt. John J. McLean, U.S. Signal Service (right),
Assistant Paymaster Edwin B. Webb, U.S. Navy, ca.
1885, on Indian River bridge. (Fickett Collec-
tion, University of Alaska Anchorage Archives)

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY
OF
SITKA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

by
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and
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Preface

In 1985 Sitka National Historical Park celebrated 75 years as a national monument and national park, an anniversary predating that of the National Park Service itself. Yet its history as a public park goes back even further to its designation by President Benjamin Harrison in 1890. The government's foresight in preserving the historic site is manifest to anyone visiting this gem of green at the mouth of Indian River where a battle was fought and a land lost.

The Tlingit Indians have always called this land home. In a pitched battle in 1804 they withdrew from the Sitka area, leaving it to the Russian fur-traders, who founded their New Archangel on the nearby point, now downtown Sitka. Later, the Tlingit returned to Sitka after agreements tacit and verbal, living somewhat in harmony with the intruders, with occasional outbursts. Americans took over from the Russians in 1867, by which time Indian River had become a destination point for walks and reflection. By the 1880s, park-like developments had been introduced at Indian River park and, after the turn-of-the-century, totem poles were introduced as attractions to visitors.

As this report explains, these resources continue to be management issues: maintenance of a trail, of totem poles, and a memorial site for the Battle of Sitka. The interaction of the community with the park and the Native groups is well detailed in the report; including the 1930s-1950s debate on appropriate site management." An Indian cultural center was established in the park in 1966 to add a new dimension and to show the dynamic, living culture of the Natives of Southeast Alaska.

Shifts in management of the park at Sitka have corresponded with the changing views of historic preservation and park management philosophy. In 1910, the park was a memorial site, but management allowed "development" in the form of hasty reconstructions and displays unacceptable by today's standards. A change in philosophy and a more direct involvement of the National Park Service (which didn't have a ranger on site until 1940) forced the agency to ask questions about the management and even retention of Sitka as a park unit. Archeological evidence relocating the historic fort site and the efforts to involve Natives with the interpretation of their art and culture highlighted the new ef-

fort to legitimize the park resources. This thrust as well as international events brought about an expansion of the park and the restoration of the Russian Bishop's House.

In 1972, Sitka National Monument was expanded and redesignated Sitka National Historical Park, which included the Russian Bishop's House. The Russian Bishop's House, the best remaining example of Russian American architecture in the United States and a symbol of the Russian culture's interaction with Native groups, has been restored to its ca. 1854 appearance. The project has been a long, difficult one and is discussed at length in the report.

This office believed that a history of the discussion of these issues and the changing philosophy of 75 years of management would help park managers understand past decisions and help anticipate future concerns. Direct stimulus for this report was the need for information about the establishment of the national monument, which would aid in the adjudication of water rights issues at Indian River. Thus, the Alaska Region contracted with historians William S. Hanable and Joan M. Antonson in 1986 to prepare such a history. They have done an exceptional job. Their history will help other park or historic site managers to see how far preservation in Alaska has come.

Robert L. Spude
Regional Historian
Alaska Region

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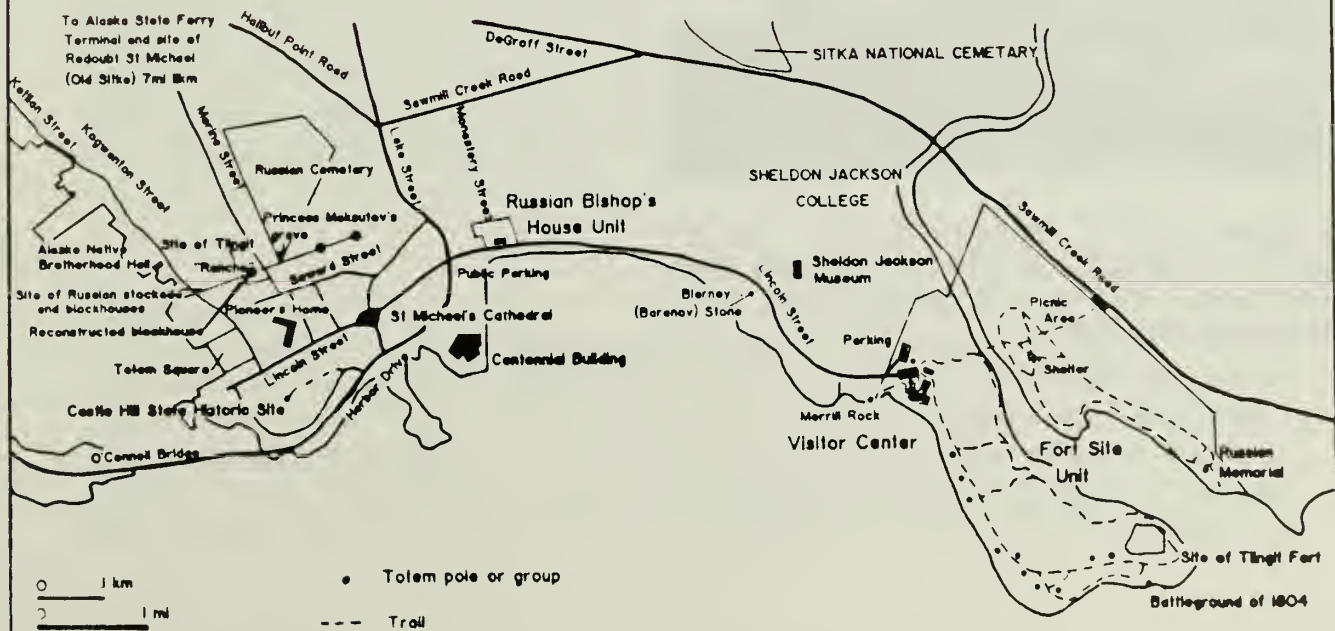
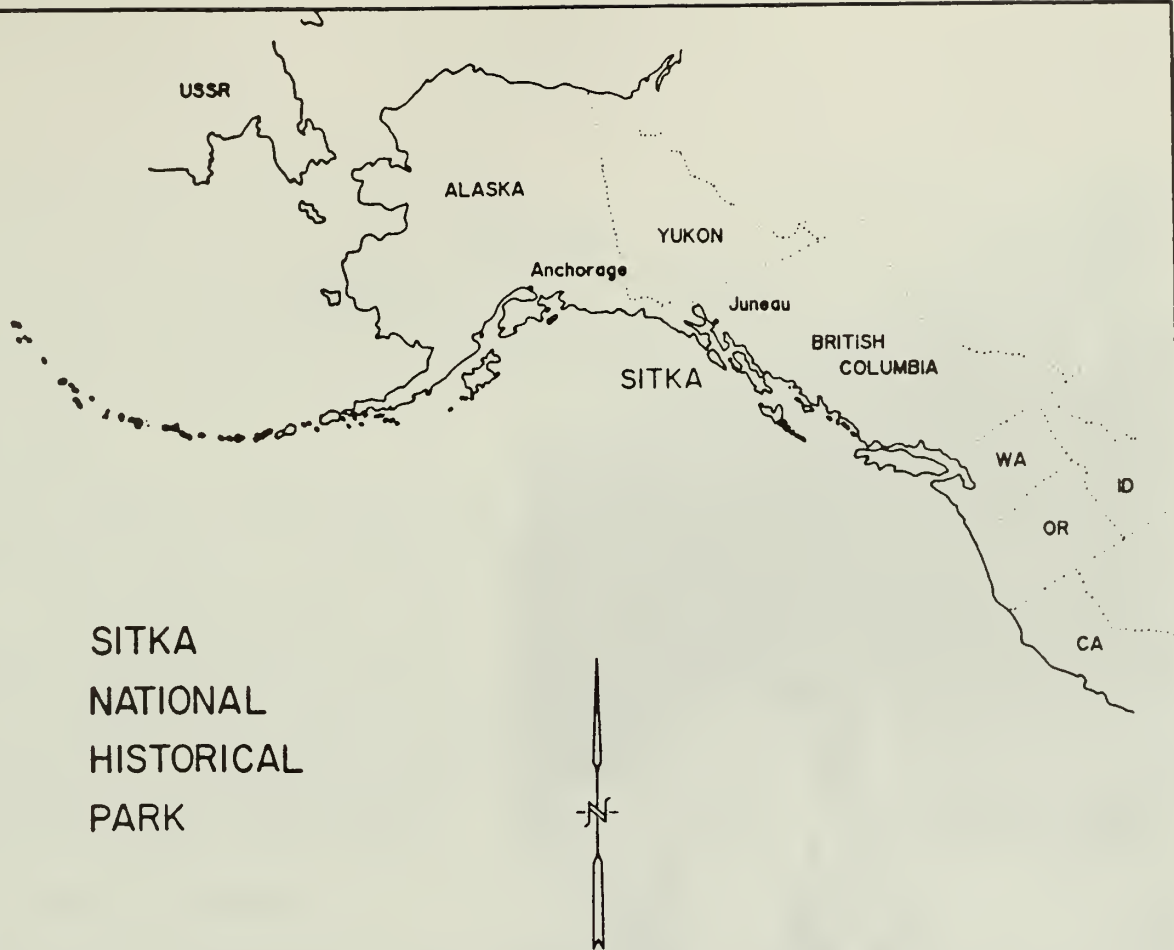
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Indian River, before 1882. (H.H. Brodeck photo, Sheldon Jackson Collection, #2115, Presbyterian Historical Society)

CHAPTER 1

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE

Introduction

Overview

This section describes the area now known as Sitka National Historical Park. It discusses its geographic location, environment, component resources such as Indian River, the Indian fort site, the battleground, the Russian sailors' memorial, the totem poles, the cultural center, the Russian Bishop's House, the Russian blockhouse, recreational usage, and their values, and the significance assigned to those values. It examines the intent of executive and congressional actions taken in the 1890s and early 1900s to reserve the area.

Geographic location

Sitka National Historical Park lies adjacent to, and because of "outholdings" such as the Russian Bishop's House and the Russian blockhouse, actually in, the Southeastern Alaska fishing and lumber processing port of Sitka.

Sitka, with its population of approximately 8,000, is the largest community on the west coast of 1,607-square-mile Baranof Island. It is also the fourth largest community in Alaska. It is 95 air miles southwest of Juneau, 185 air miles northwest of Ketchikan, 590 air miles southeast of Anchorage, and almost 900 air miles north of Seattle.¹

1. Orth, Donald J., Dictionary of Alaska Place Names, Geological Survey Professional Paper 567 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1967, rev. 1971): 880; Roppel, Pat, editor, Sitka and Its Ocean World, Alaska Geographic 9 (2) (Anchorage: Alaska Geographic Society, 1982): 13ff.; Roppel, Pat, editor, Southeast--Alaska's Panhandle, Alaska Geographic 5 (2) (Anchorage: Alaska Geographic Society, 1978): 103-117.

Physical environment

Although it lies on the eastern edge of the North Pacific Ocean, Sitka is sheltered from the violence of those waters by Sitka Sound. Around Sitka is the rainforest-like vegetation typical of Southeastern Alaska. This dense growth of Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and Alaska cedar rises to timberline on the steep slopes of the Baranof Mountains. Various berry bushes, devil's club, and other undergrowth form a dense cover for the forest floor. Alpine tundra is found above treeline, typically around 2,000 feet.

Moisture-laden clouds moving in from the ocean dump about 97 inches of precipitation, including 50 inches of snow, on Sitka each year. This heavy, but sporadic, rain and snowfall is complemented by strong south or southeasterly winds with average annual speeds of eight to ten knots. Temperatures range from the 40s to the 60s in summer and from the teens to the low 40s in winter.

Natural wildlife found in the Sitka area includes bear, deer, mink, and otter. Other wildlife that has been introduced by human intervention includes mountain goats, martens, and squirrels. Sea mammals, such as sea otter, were once plentiful in the Sitka vicinity but were hunted to near extinction in the nineteenth century. Other sea mammals such as harbor seals, sea lions, porpoises, and several species of whales have survived in the waters near Sitka. Ocean fish indigenous to the Sitka area include sockeye, chum, pink, and coho salmon and numerous types of bottom fish. Fresh water fish in the area include steelhead, rainbow, cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden. Other sea life nearby includes Dungeness, tanner, and king crab; clams, scallops, abalone, sea urchins, octopus, and sea cucumbers.²

2. Roppel, 1982: 21-42.

Cultural environment

The Sitka area is historically the location of a large Tlingit Indian year-round village. That complex and rich culture was supplemented and impacted by Western culture in the late eighteenth century when Russian fur traders arrived both to trade and later to occupy the area. The Battle of Sitka, commemorated by the park, in fact resulted in the Kiksadi Tlingits leaving the Sitka area for some twenty years. The Kiksadi eventually returned to Sitka at the invitation of the Russians. The Russians themselves were later supplanted by Americans who arrived in October of 1867 to occupy the Russian posts there and in other areas of Alaska.

Thus Sitka's cultural environment is a mixture of Tlingit, Russian, and American cultures. That mixture is reflected in the variety of resources that have been identified over the years in what is now Sitka National Historical Park.

Component Resources

Early component resources

President Benjamin A. Harrison set aside much of the area now known as Sitka National Historical Park by proclamation in 1890. The area, of approximately 50 acres, was described as:

The tract of land bounded on the west by the line established by the survey made for the Presbyterian Mission, and along the shore line of the bay at low tide to the mouth of Indian River, and across the mouth of said river and along its right bank for an average width of 500 feet, along said bank to the point known as Indian River falls, and also on the left bank of said river from said fall an average of two hundred feet, from said falls to the eastern line or boundary as shown on the mission plat, for a public park.

The President designated the area as a public park, but did not further specify the values to be protected. His proclamation also, in its first paragraph, set aside nearby Navy Creek as a water source for naval and mercantile vessels and reserved the whole of Japonski Island for naval and military purposes.³

District of Alaska Governor Lyman E. Knapp initiated the chain of events that led to the proclamation. In November of 1889, Knapp advised Secretary of the Interior John W. Noble that it was time to reserve lands that might be needed for coaling stations, government wharves, public buildings, parade grounds, and barracks at Douglas Island, Juneau, Kodiak, Sitka, Unalaska, and Wrangell. He cited the possibility that Congress would extend the land laws of the United States to Alaska during its next session. Knapp reported that some individuals in Alaska had begun to stake pre-emptive claims in anticipation of Congressional action.⁴

Early in the 1880s, three of the naval officers stationed at Sitka had claimed homesteads extending from what later became the location of Sheldon Jackson College to Jamestown Bay. In 1882, the officers refused to relinquish their claims in favor of the school but they never perfected them. Also in 1882, American Civil War veteran Nicholas Haley filed a homestead claim "on Indian River N. bank, all above high tide. It shall be known as the Sitka Park and Haley's Homestead." Haley, too, never perfected his title, but the claims clearly indicated that the traditional park on Indian River was in danger of going into private ownership.⁵

3. Harrison, Benjamin A., "Proclamation," June 21, 1890.

4. Knapp, Lyman E., November 25, 1889, to John W. Noble, in Governors Chronological File, Alaska Territorial Government Microfilm, Roll No. 1, Call No. 80-12, in University of Alaska, Anchorage, Archives.

5. DeArmond, Robert, "Sitka's Past: Indian River Park Kept Free of Private Enterprise," in The Daily Sitka Sentinel, March 24, 1987: 5.

The secretary responded to Knapp with the suggestion that he empanel commissioners who would make recommendations regarding lands in Alaska that should be set aside for public purposes. Knapp then appointed commissioners in several communities. For Sitka, he selected John G. Brady, missionary and merchant; Lt. Cmdr. O.W. Farenholt, commanding officer of USS Pinta, the navy vessel stationed at Sitka from 1884 to 1897; and Henry H. Haydon, Surveyor General and ex-officio Secretary of Alaska. Knapp asked the three to

serve jointly as commissioners to examine and report as to what lands in and about Sitka should be permanently reserved by the Government for its uses for public buildings, barracks, parade grounds, parks, wharves, coaling stations, or other purposes.⁶

The commissioners made their recommendations in a March 31, 1890, report to Governor Knapp. Without explanation, they stated:

We would also recommend for reservation as a public park all that plat of ground, bounded on the West by the line as established by the survey made for the Presbyterian Mission, as above referred to, and along the shors [sic] line of the Bay at low tide to the mouth of the Indian River, and across the mouth of said River, along its right bank for an average width of 500 feet along said bank, to the point known as Indian River Falls: and also on the left bank of said river from said falls, an average width of 200 feet from said falls to the Eastern line or boundry [sic] as shown on the Mission plat.⁷

6. Knapp, Lyman E., February 1, 1890, to John G. Brady, O.W. Farenholt, H.H. Haydon, in Governors Chronological File, Alaska Territorial Government, Roll No. 1, Call No. 80-12; Atwood, Evangeline and Robert N. DeArmond, Who's Who in Alaskan Politics (Portland, Oregon: Binford & Mort for the Alaska Historical Commission, 1977): 42; DeArmond, Robert N., personal communication, September 30, 1986.

The commissioners' recommendations were summarized for Secretary Noble in an April 2, 1890, letter from the governor. The secretary, in turn, forwarded the recommendations to the President on June 9, 1890. The President responded with his proclamation, quoted in part above, and an endorsement appended to the secretary's letter.

June 21st, 1890

In accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, the above-described tracts of land in the Territory of Alaska are hereby reserved for the uses and purposes described by the Secretary, until otherwise directed by Congress.

(signed)

Benj Harrison⁸

Park-like use

Park-like usage of the area on Indian River had begun prior to American purchase of Alaska in 1867. That usage had continued after the purchase and there were local efforts, publicly-sponsored, to maintain its facilities and expand its attractions.

7. Henry E. Haydon, O.W. Farenholt U.S. Navy [sic], John G. Brady, Commissioners, March 31, 1890, report transmitted by letter of Henry E. Haydon, April 1, 1890, in RG 101, Office of the District and Territorial Governors, Series 445, District Governors Letters Received, Box 44, in Alaska State Archives.

8. Noble, John W., Secretary of the Interior, June 9, 1890, to President Benjamin A. Harrison, in RG 49, Records of the Bureau of Land Management (Box 6), General Land Office, Division "K," Abandoned Military Reservations File, National Archives.

In the early 1860s, Russians used the trail through the woods to Indian River for regular recreational walks. According to one source, it was not used recreationally before that because the Russians feared attacks by the Indians.⁹ Another visitor to Sitka, this one just after the American purchase of Alaska in 1867, reported recreational use of the Indian River area by Russian families living in Sitka.

The Russians, who for months past had been greatly enjoying the few fine days we did have, made all the use they could of this warm spell and on practically every bright summer afternoon they went with their wives and children out into the open country...sometimes to the Indian River which flows into the bay at its north-east end about a mile away from the settlement -- as already stated, this walk to the river was the only one along the sea-front.

These land excursions were often very animated and cheerful. A shady spot was chosen on the bank of the limpid, rushing mountain stream and everyone set to work to collect dry wood. Under the care of one skilled in such matters a bright fire was soon burning and the inevitable copper samovar boiling over it.¹⁰

In the American period, reports and photographs that preceded the proclamation cited the "lovers' lane" that ran through the park, its vegetation, scenic vistas, and the river itself as worthy attractions.¹¹ Indian River was an early recreation des-

9. Golovin, Pavel, Civil and Savage Encounters - The Worldly Travel Letters of an Imperial Russian Navy Officer 1860-1861, Basil Dmytryshyn and E.A.P. Crownhart-Vaughn, trans. and eds. (Portland: The Press of the Oregon Historical Society, 1983): 118.

10. Teichmann, Emil, A Journey to Alaska in the Year 1868: Being a Diary of the Late Emil Teichmann (New York: Argosy - Antiquarian Ltd., 1963): 218.

11. Langille, W.A., "Report on agricultural settlement," December 19, 1908, in "Selected Documents Relating to Sitka National Monument," Microfilm by the National Archives and Records Administration, 1985 (referred to hereafter as RG 79 Selected Documents).

mination point for Sitkans out walking for pleasure. The river itself, clear but shallow, and nearby vegetation were attractions.¹²

Tourists, then known as excursionists, also began to visit Sitka in the 1880s. The first steamship load arrived in 1882 aboard South Dakota. Vacationing in the Far North became fashionable. The numbers of touring visitors increased as the years passed: 1,650 in 1884; 2,753 in 1886, 3,889 in 1887, 5,432 in 1889, and 5,007 in 1890.¹³ Most visitors seem to have included Indian River in their visits to Sitka. The path through the woods known as Lovers' Lane provided easy access to the river's banks. According to a traveler's guide written in the early 1880s, the lovers' lane was an extension and improvement of a Russian-constructed walk along the beach and through the woods.¹⁴

In 1884, 2d Lt. Howard H. Gilman, USMC, officer-in-charge of the U.S. Marine Guard at Sitka, used a party of Marines and Indians to clear a new pathway from the beach to the river. His crews constructed additional paths on either side of the stream and bridged it twice. He had two other bridges built over ravines on the river bank. Leaving the river banks, the Marine-built paths also explored the woods themselves.

Both the 1884 traveler and an 1886 successor noted the skill with which Gilman had laid out the paths to display natural features. They especially mentioned the crystal clear waters of Indian River, gigantic trees, ferns, huge green leaves of the

12. Fitzgerald, Emily McCorkle, *An Army Doctor's Wife on the Frontier* (New York: University of Nebraska Press, 1986): 136.

13. Cole, Douglas, *Captured Heritage* (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1985): 96; Hinckley, Ted C., *The Americanization of Alaska, 1867 - 1897* (Palo Alto, California: Pacific Books, Publishers, 1972): 150.

14. Scidmore, Eliza Ruhamah, *Alaska and Its Southern Coast* (Boston: D. Lothrop and Company, 1885): 185, 190.

"devil's club," mosses, grasses, and lichens. The off-shore vista, "Every foot of island...sketchable, and a picture in itself;" also received recognition.

Another observer, a naval officer stationed in Pinta in 1888, later recorded that "The Indian River...is beautiful and celebrated in history and romance."¹⁵ Such comments were reinforced by most writers who visited Sitka in the late 1800s.¹⁶

Improvement of the recreational values continued in the 1890s. In 1895 a new trail was cut from "the Point to the Bridge" along Indian River. Three years later the local newspaper noted that "Everyone who comes to Sitka goes there [Indian River]." The paper urged that the park be cleaned up and that new benches and walkways be provided.¹⁷

A revised, 1899, travel guide by the 1884 author elaborated with the information that in 1844 Indian River had been so thick with salmon that a canoe could not be forced through.¹⁸ By the end of the century, trout predominated and salmon could be caught only occasionally.¹⁹

15. Coontz, Robert E., From the Mississippi to the Sea (Philadelphia: Dorrance and Company, Inc., 1930): 120.

16. See Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center for the United States Bureau of Land Management, A Study of the Historical Use and Physical Characteristics of Alaska's Inland Water Bodies, volume 10, Southeast Alaska Region (Anchorage: Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center/University of Alaska, 1979).

17. The [Sitka] Alaskan, August 10, 1895: 2; March 26, 1898: 3.

18. DeArmond, R.N., ed., "Sir George Simpson, 1841-2," in Early Visitors to Southeastern Alaska (Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1978): 153-193, reveals the source of this assertion about Simpson's 1844 visit to Sitka. Simpson, however, only describes "a little stream, which is within a mile of the fort," p. 167. This may not have been Indian River at all.

19. Hallock, Charles, Our New Alaska or, the Seward Purchase Vindicated (New York: Forest and Stream Publishing Company, 1886; 187-188; Scid-

Indian River protection

Indian River protection was increased in 1910. President William Howard Taft used the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to declare the area on Indian River to be Sitka National Monument. The monument came into being as a result of efforts by William Alexander Langille, supervisor of Tongass National Forest. The forest had come into being on July 1, 1908, when the Alexander Archipelago Forest Reserve that dated from 1902 and Tongass National Forest that dated from 1907 were joined. The combined forest area encompassed most of Southeast Alaska. Langille had first come to Alaska in 1897 as a part of the Klondike gold rush. Guiding experience in the Oregon mountains had brought him into contact with leaders in the national forestry movement.

Gifford Pinchot, head of forestry for President Theodore Roosevelt, called Langille from Alaska to Washington in 1902 and thereafter appointed him as a forestry expert. In 1905, Langille became supervisor of the Alexander Archipelago Forest Reserve and subsequently head of the larger Tongass National Forest. He had, according to a historian of the U.S. Forest Service activity in Alaska, "as many duties as Pooh-Bah of Gilbert and Sullivan's Mikado."²⁰

In 1908, Sitka Post No. 6 of the Arctic Brotherhood desired better protection for the area known as Indian River Park. It was natural that they should turn to Langille for advice. Langille recommended that the brotherhood petition the President of the

more, Eliza Ruhamah, Appleton's Guide-book to Alaska and the Northwest Coast (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1899.)

20. Rakestraw, Lawrence W., A History of the United States Forest Service in Alaska, (Anchorage: The Alaska Historical Society for the Alaska Historical Commission and the Alaska Region, United States Forest Service, 1981): 17-23.

United States to declare the area a national monument. He offered to prepare a sketch map of the area and to see that the petition and map went to the President.²¹ After review by District of Alaska Governor Walter A. Clark and United States Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot, Secretary of Agriculture James S. Wilson submitted the petition with map and photographs to the Secretary of the Interior. On March 23, 1910, a presidential proclamation created Sitka National Monument.²²

Component resources in 1910

When Sitka National Monument was created in 1910, officials identified several significant resources in the area now known as Sitka National Historical Park. These included

the decisive battle ground of the Russian conquest of Alaska in 1804, and also the site of the former village of the Kik-Siti tribe [sic], the most warlike of the Alaskan Indians; and...also...the graves of a Russian midshipman and six sailors, killed in the conflict, and numerous totem poles constructed by the Indians, which record the genealogical history of their several clans.²³

21. Langille, William A., November 10, 1908, to the Camp Sitka No. 6, Arctic Brotherhood, in RG 79, National Park Service, Monuments, Sitka file 1910-1932, (Box 603), in the National Archives.

22. Secretary of Agriculture, March 5, 1910, to the Secretary of Interior; Secretary of the Interior, March 19, 1910, to the President; Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

23. Taft, William Howard, "A Proclamation," Executive Order No. 959, March 23, 1910.

"The decisive battle ground of the Russian conquest of Alaska in 1804" referred to the beach area over which Russians assaulted a fortified camp of the Kiksadi Tlingits in late September and early October of 1804.²⁴ The events leading up to the assault, its conduct, and its consequences are discussed in subsequent chapters.

The battle site, or its immediate vicinity, may also have been the scene of a second confrontation. According to one account, in 1855 Indians destroyed a small Russian settlement in the area.²⁵ This is borne out to some extent by an 1852 map that shows three buildings in the area now occupied by the western half of Sitka National Historical Park, just south of where the trail from Sitka ended at Indian River. The map also shows two other buildings and cultivated ground on the east side of the river.²⁶

It is probable that rather than a "settlement" the buildings marked simply provided shelter at an outlying garden or fishing site. The "site of the former village of the Kik-Siti tribe [sic]" was the location to which they had moved in 1804 from their main village adjacent to and including the downtown Sitka feature first known as Nu-Tlan and later as Castle Hill. The move anticipated what became known as the Battle of Sitka. Reportedly, the Indian River location was a summer fishing camp of the Kiksadi Tlingit that had been fortified in anticipation of a battle with the Russians. The 1880 census gave some indication, by reporting a population of 43 Tlingits at "Indian River," that Kiksadi use of the area as a summer fish camp may have been resumed sometime in the nineteenth century.²⁷

24. Lisiansky, Urey, *Voyage Round the World in the Years 1803, 1804, 1805, and 1806*, Bibliotheca Australiana #42 (New York: Da Capo Press, 1968): 154-164.

25. Golovin, 1983: 118.

26. Tebenkov, M.D., compiler, *Atlas of the Northwest Coasts of America*, R.A. Pierce, trans. and ed., *Materials for the Study of Alaska History* No. 21 (Kingston, Ontario: The Limestone Press, 1981): Map 38.

The rhomboid-shaped walled fort, approximately 240 by 165 feet in its longest dimensions, enclosed 14 structures. After the Indians abandoned the fort, the Russians burned it.²⁸

The Russian sailors' memorial location was known through Sitka tradition long before establishment of the national monument. The Arctic Brotherhood's petition to the President noted that the memorial was the location of the grave of personnel from a Russian man-of-war who had been "killed and buried where they fell" in the September 1804 battle. According to the brotherhood, Alexander Baranov, in 1804 Chief Manager of the Russian American Company's activities in Alaska, had caused a wooden monument to be erected over their grave "which public-spirited citizens have since kept more or less in repair."²⁹

The memorial site appears on Langille's 1908 sketch map as a small fenced area. An attached photograph shows a rectangular picket fence enclosing a Roman cross. Langille's report "on a proposed national monument at Sitka, Alaska," describes the memorial as "the burial place of a Russian midshipman and six sailors killed by the Indians on the day following the decisive engagement of 1804...."³⁰

27. Hall, George A., personal communication, August 26, 1986; Petroff, Ivan, "Report on the population, industries, and resources of Alaska, 1880," in Compilation of Narratives of Exploration in Alaska (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1900): 193.

28. Alternatives Study for Proposed Additions to Sitka National Monument, May 1968, in National Park Service Harper's Ferry Center, Alaska Collection, Richard Stenmark File 84-34; Lisiansky, 1968: 162-163; Bancroft, Hubert Howe, History of Alaska 1730-1885 (New York: Antiquarian Press Ltd., 1959): 432.

29. Smith, Otis E., Camp Sitka No. 6, Arctic Brotherhood, November 16, 1908, to the President, in RG 79, National Park Service "Monuments, Sitka 1910-32," (Box 603), in the National Archives.

30. Langille, William A., November 10, 1908, and "Report on a proposed National Monument at Sitka, Alaska," undated, attached to "Report on Agricultural Settlement," December 19, 1908, in RG 79, National Park Service Central Files, in the National Archives.

Research in primary sources to date has not accounted for the location of the memorial or the type and number of persons reported to be buried there. None of the sources consulted mentions disposition of the bodies of casualties from the Battle of Indian River. Details regarding the number and nature of casualties vary.

Urey Lisiansky commanded the Russian warship that took part in the battle. He states that two sailors were killed and a number of sailors and officers wounded. A Russian American Company official reports the casualties as including two naval lieutenants and three sailors. The fur trading company's official history identifies one wounded naval officer, Povalishin, as a midshipman and gives the number of sailors killed as three.³¹

The Arctic Brotherhood's 1908 petition does mention that the "Graeco-Russian Church" was heading a movement to erect a permanent monument at the memorial site.³² It is not known if anything resulted from this. In 1916, J.A. Moore, Special Agent for the General Land Office, was recommending that the memorial be marked. Ten years later, the Reverend A.P. Kashevaroff, curator of the Territorial Library and Museum, was making the same recommendation.³³ This too may have come to naught, but the

31. Lisiansky, 1968: 158; Khlebnikov, K.T., Baranov -- Chief Manager of the Russian Colonies in America, Materials for the Study of Alaska History No. 3 (Kingston: Ontario, 1973): 48; Tikhmenev, P.A., A History of the Russian American Company, Richard A. Pierce, trans. and ed. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1978): 74.

32. Smith, November 16, 1908.

33. Moore, J.A., August 26, 1916, to Commissioner, General Land Office, in RG 79 Selected Documents; Kashevaroff, A.P., November 7, 1925, to Alaska Road Commission, in "Russian Memorial" file, Sitka National Historical Park.

memorial apparently was long a point of commemorative significance to Sitkans and eventually became another point of interest for visitors to Sitka.

The totem poles were from throughout Southeast Alaska. In 1901, the U.S. Revenue Cutter Rush relocated a tall totem pole, four house posts, and a war canoe given by Chief Saanaheit of Kasaan to the park. In 1903, Alaska Governor John G. Brady collected 20 additional poles from Prince of Wales Island, about 125 miles south of Sitka. The sources included the Tlingit villages of Tuxekan and Klawock, and the Haida villages of Howkan, Klinkwan, Sukkwan, Old Kasaan, and Koinglas. Brady gathered the poles with the promise that they would go to the United States government.³⁴

Brady shipped the poles, house posts, and canoe to St. Louis for the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition. After the exposition, some of the poles were sold. Others went to Portland, Oregon, for display at the Lewis and Clark Exposition. After their display at Portland, Brady is said to have had 14 of the 20 poles shown at the exposition placed in the public park at Sitka.³⁵ E.W. Merrill was engaged to arrange the poles "artistically." Langille's 1908 map of the monument, however, shows only 13 poles.³⁶

34. Wyatt, Victoria, "A Unique Attraction -- the Alaska Totem poles at St. Louis Exposition of 1904," in *The Alaska Journal* 1986 (Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1986): 23.

35. The [Sitka] Alaskan, January 13, 1906: 2; Brady, Hugh P., September 26, 1967, to Raymond Geerdes, in File 3330-3, Sitka National Historical Park, AHRS Site-012, Office of History & Archaeology, Anchorage, and "Early days in Sitka," talk at Sheldon Jackson College, October 18, 1965, copy in files of IPH/JMA-Alaska, Anchorage; Roppel, 1982: 114; Steese, James G., President, Alaska Road Commission, May 25, 1925, to Arno B. Cammerer, Acting Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents, 1985; Knapp, Marilyn, *Carved History, the Totems of Sitka National Historical Park* (Anchorage: Alaska Natural History Association and National Park Service, 1985), no pagination.

36. Langille, December 19, 1908.

Witch tree and recreation use

Without making distinctions regarding significance, documents leading to the Presidential Executive Order cited above also mentioned the Sitka reserve's resources as including a "witch tree" and noted that it had been "for generations...a place of recreation for Sitka people."³⁷

Sitka tradition identified the witch tree as one to which a witch had been tied for a cleansing process. In a procedure very similar to New England witch hunts, those identified by Tlingits as witches were given a chance to admit their guilt before being put to death. To some who saw it, the tree's appearance suggested sorcery. For many years photographs of the tree could be purchased at the Photo Shop in Sitka. Barrett Willoughby, a travel and romance writer who had spent some of her childhood in Sitka, reported in an account of an early 1900s return to Sitka that the tree was also one under which the Indians held their important tribal councils. She also said that the Indians recorded significant events by "driving plugs into its soft gray bark." The huge hemlock "plushed with amber moss and tufted with little green ferns" was washed away when the river flooded during World War II.³⁸

Supplements to original resources

The original list of component resources was supplemented as the years passed. Various officials suggested adding resources that were either not immediately, or were never, made a part of the monument.

37. "Report on a proposed national monument at Sitka, Alaska," undated, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

38. Willoughby, Barrett, Sitka -- Portal to Romance (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1930): 197-199; Ashby, Joe, personal communication, August 26, 1986; Davis, Nancy, personal communication, July 1986; Hall, George A., personal communication, 1986.

In 1916, for instance, General Land Office Special Agent J.A. Moore recommended without result that Sheldon Jackson Museum, nearby on the campus of the Sitka Training School, be acquired for the monument.³⁹

Visual aesthetics within the monument were identified again as monument values in the early 1920s. Alaska Road Commission and National Park Service officials opposed wheeled vehicle traffic inside the monument in order to preserve the attractiveness of the area.⁴⁰ The vista from the monument toward the sea also came under consideration again. This occurred at least as early as 1923, when road commission and park service officials corresponded regarding the visual intrusion of a powerline that ran along the monument boundary.⁴¹

Wildlife resident in the monument had achieved recognition as values by 1924, when the President of the Alaska Road Commission notified National Park Service headquarters in Washington by telegram that a hunter had been apprehended shooting at tame deer and other wildlife in the park.⁴²

39. Moore, J.A., Special Agent, General Land Office, August 26, 1916, to Commissioner, General Land Office, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

40. Mather, Stephen T., Director, National Park Service, December 18, 1923, to James G. Steese, President, Alaska Road Commission; James G. Steese, December 27, 1923, to Eiler Hansen, secretary, Sitka Commercial Club, both in RG 79 Selected Documents.

41. Cammerer, Arno B., Acting Director, National Park Service, February 17, 1923, to Federal Water Power Commission; Mather, Stephen T., Director, National Park Service, February 18, 1924, to Federal Water Power Commission; Cammerer, Arno B., Acting Director, National Park Service, July 23, 1925, to James G. Steese, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

42. Steese, James G., June 5, 1925, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

In 1926, Stephen T. Mather, director of the National Park Service, approved efforts of the Alaska Historical Society and the Sitka Commercial Club to construct a replica of a Russian blockhouse in the park. This activity added another value to the monument.⁴³

The following year, in 1927, territorial and park service officials considered retrieving additional totem poles from abandoned Native villages in Southeast Alaska and relocating them in Sitka National Monument. This idea had been raised as early as 1921 and would be considered again and again without action through the 1970s.⁴⁴

In 1933, Park Service officials rejected a feature that Sitka residents desired be added to the monument, a plaque commemorating Alaskan photographer E.W. Merrill.⁴⁵ In 1938, Chief of Forestry J. D. Coffman visited the monument. He reinforced the idea of the park as a place of recreation for Sitkans, with a description of its city park-like usage.⁴⁶

Two years later, in 1940, the first park service employee stationed at the monument proposed acquisition of two properties being disposed of by the Coast and Geodetic Survey. In doing so, he noted their historical value. One site, where the Coast and Geodetic Survey had quartered its employees, was the location of the "Old Russian Tea Gardens." A no-longer-needed magnetic station and variation stand was cited as the site of an old blockhouse.⁴⁷ It is likely, however, that the proposed acquisi-

43. National Park Service, "Memorandum for the Press," May 11, 1926; Kashevaroff, A.P., March 2, 1926, to Col. James G. Steese, President, Alaska Road Commission; Parks, George A., Governor, Territory of Alaska, April 13, 1926, to Stephen T. Mather, all in RG 79 Selected Documents.

44. RG 79 Selected Documents.

45. Cammerer, Arno B., April 10, 1933, to Eiler Hansen, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

46. Coffman, J.D., Chief of Forestry, "Observations relative to Sitka National Monument," September 20, 1938, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

tion had more to do with the critical shortage of housing in Sitka than with the historical value of the property involved. Park service officials were in an acquisitive mood. That same year, Mount McKinley Superintendent Frank T. Been recommended that the service acquire Castle Hill and salvage the wreck of the Russian vessel Neva.⁴⁸

Also in 1940, navy efforts to extract gravel from the mouth of Indian River stimulated consideration of the scenic values of the monument areas adjacent to Indian River.⁴⁹ This concern was expressed again the following year when National Park Service officials protested navy tree-cutting within the monument.⁵⁰

World War II activity also added a series of machine gun pits to the monument. Remnants of these can be seen along the seaward side of Lovers' Lane. This fulfills, in part, the suggestion of an army officer with an unusual understanding of future concerns. A Maj. Pomeroy (First Name Unknown), in charge of sea coast defenses in the monument, took National Park Service personnel to the site of a gun and ammunition position. He suggested that it be left intact as after the war it would have historical value.⁵¹

47. Miller, Ben C., Custodian, Sitka National Monument, April 21, 1940, to Superintendent Frank T. Been, Mount McKinley National Park, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

48. Been, Frank T., December 11, 1940, to Regional Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

49. Miller, Ben C., March 22, 1940, to Frank T. Been, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

50. Been, Frank T., Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park, June 17, 1941, to Custodian Ben C. Miller, Sitka National Monument, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

51. Been, Frank T., "Field notes and interviews, inspection of Glacier Bay National Monument and Sitka National Monument, August 12 to September 4, 1942," in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Private property adjacent to the western park boundary was added to the monument on February 25, 1952. This increased the total monument size to 54.33 acres.⁵²

One component park value was lost, and another created, in 1959 and 1960. In 1959, the replica Russian blockhouse constructed within the park boundaries in 1926 was bulldozed and burned because it had become a hazard to visitors. Then the park service began construction of still another replica blockhouse, this time in downtown Sitka. This replica, located on federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, was completed in 1961.⁵³

A major new component resource was added to monument values in 1965 when the visitor center was dedicated. It incorporated a cultural center for traditional Native arts and crafts and a history museum.

The Department of the Interior's Indian Arts and Crafts Board had established a major retraining program for Alaska Native artisans at Sitka in 1962. When the new Sitka National Monument visitor center opened, the retraining program was moved there. The program included five related workshops: wood and ivory carving, metalwork, lapidary, stone carving, and design and block printing. Talented Natives were employed as demonstration aides to develop new and upgraded craft products.

It took some time to define the nature of the resource that the new cultural center represented. The National Park Service and the Indian Arts and Crafts Board funded it jointly. The Indian Arts and Crafts Board initially viewed it as a place where traditional arts and crafts from Native cultures throughout Alaska might be preserved and taught. Sitka's Tlingit community viewed it as a place most appropriate for preservation and teaching of Tlingit, or at most Northwest Coast Indian, arts and crafts that might be preserved and taught. The National Park Service viewed it as a place where Native arts and crafts could be demonstrated and interpreted, not as a training program.

52. Alternatives Study..., May 1968: 1.

53. Hall, George A., personal communication, 1986.

The National Park Service was in the middle until the regional director recommended the Tlingit position to the national director. It was not until July of 1968 that the Indian Arts and Crafts Board grudgingly accepted the resource definition put forward by Sitka's Tlingits.⁵⁴

The new visitor center also included a small history museum. Artifacts for the display came from Sheldon Jackson Museum and from a small collection that had been loaned or given to the monument itself by Sitka residents.⁵⁵

The Russian Bishop's House was the last major resource added to Sitka National Historical Park. The National Park Service purchased it in 1972. This came a decade after the Secretary of the Interior designated the building, then known as the Russian Mission Orphanage, as a National Historic Landmark.

Landmark status for the Russian Bishop's House was based on the building's association with Ioann Veniaminov, then Bishop of Kamchatka, the Kuriles, and the Aleutian Islands (later Saint Innocent, Apostle to Alaska), most famous of the Russian Orthodox clergy to work in Alaska. Additional justifications for the building's landmark status included its role as the educational and administrative headquarters of the Orthodox Church in Alaska, and its importance as an example of period Russian architecture.⁵⁶

54. "Sitka National Historical Park Visitor Center Dedication; File A44, Cultural Center Correspondence 69-76," at Sitka National Historical Park.

55. Hall, George A., personal communication, August 26, 1986.

56. Cloyd, Paul C., E.I.T., Historic Structure Report - Russian Bishop's House, Sitka National Historical Park (Denver: Denver Service Center, National Park Service, November 1982): 3, 11; Dippel, Elizabeth A., ed., The National Register of Historic Places (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1971): 13.

The Russian American Company built the structure in 1842-1843 to serve as the residence, administrative center, and private chapel of Veniaminov. A school building, constructed in 1897; and a small cottage known as House No. 105, built in 1887, are satellites to the building.⁵⁷

In the early 1980s, traditional recreation values of walking for pleasure, natural history observation, and so forth were supplemented by a fitness trail constructed on the east side of Indian River.

Summary

In summary, the component resources of Sitka National Historical Park include cultural, natural, and recreational resources.

The recreational resources were identified through customary usage by the mid- nineteenth century. They included such usages as walking for pleasure, picnicking and game-playing on the banks of Indian River, observation of the river, fishing in the river, enjoyment of the plants and animals that inhabit the area adjacent to the river, and appreciation of vistas to the seaward from vantage points along the walk to the river. These usages were formalized in the 1880s by civic action to enhance the park's recreational facilities through such activities as publicly-supported trail construction and in 1890 by the earliest reservation of the area as a public park. Recognition of the park's recreational values has since been continuous.

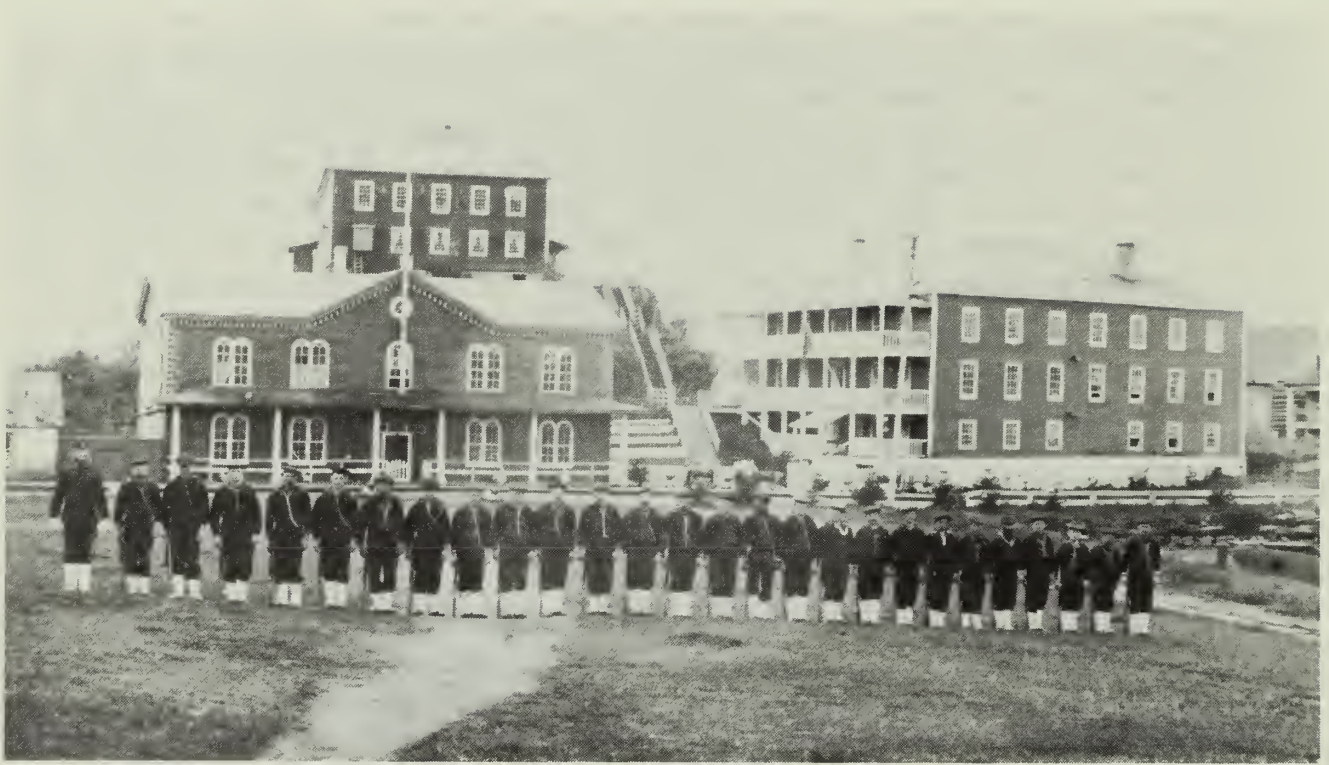
57. Blee, Catherine Holder, Archeological Investigations at the Russian Bishop's House 1981 - Sitka National Historical Park, Sitka, Alaska (Denver, Colorado: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1985): 8-12; Cloyd, Paul C. E.I.T., Historic Structure Reports for House 105 and the Old School - Administrative, Physical History and Analysis Sections - Sitka National Historical Park, Sitka, (Denver, Colorado: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Alaska/Pacific Northwest/Western Team, Branch of Cultural Resources: 1984): 1, 3.

The cultural resources were first recognized in the early 1800s when Alexander Baranov had a monument erected to the sailors who were killed in the 1804 Battle of Sitka. Although recreational values predominated for many years, cultural resources began to become more important in 1901 when the first totem poles were placed in the park. The inventory of cultural resources was expanded and their recognition formalized in 1908 when the area was proposed as a national monument. At that time, cultural resources recognized included the 1804 battleground, the site of the former village of the Kiksadi Tlingits, the memorial to Russians killed in the 1804 battle, and totem poles and house posts relocated to the Sitka park. References to a "witch tree" are found in documents leading up to the designation, but not in the 1910 proclamation actually making the designation.

Visual aesthetics, including the beauty of the river, the environment inside the park, and vistas from the park, were recognized as park resources at Sitka at least by the early 1880s. Various species of wildlife were also recognized as park resources about this same time.

In 1926, a replica blockhouse within the park boundaries was added as a park resource. It remained one until 1959 when it was demolished. Its role was subsequently filled by a replica blockhouse erected in downtown Sitka. Although the National Park Service maintains the replica, it does not own the property on which it sits.

In the mid-1960s, the visitor center and the cultural center it houses became park resources. In 1972, the last major resource to be added to date, the Russian Bishop's House and its satellite structures, became a part of the park. A decade later, the park's recreational resources were supplemented by construction of a fitness trail.



Far left, 2d Lt. Howard H. Gilman, U.S. Marine Corps, with his Marine detachment from USS Adams on parade ground at Sitka. Gilman led the effort to construct recreational trails at Indian River before he left Sitka in August 1884. (Sheldon Jackson Collection, #500, Presbyterian Historical Society)

CHAPTER 2

SITKA -- HISTORICAL OVERVIEW.

Overview

This section briefly outlines the history of the community of Sitka. It provides a context for understanding the evolution of what is now Sitka National Historical Park. It includes a description of traditional Tlingit use of the area around Sitka before the Russians established a fort in the area. The battles of 1802 at Old Sitka and of 1804 at Indian River are detailed. Understanding the different national approaches to fulfilling government responsibilities in Alaska is necessary to understand changes at Sitka from the Russian period to the American period. Understanding the nature and remoteness of Sitka and Alaska is also necessary to understanding the development of the park.

Tlingits

The Tlingits, the most northerly of the Northwest Coast Indians, occupied southeast Alaska possibly 10,000 years ago. Most archeologists believe that the Tlingits moved from the interior of today's Alaska and British Columbia to southeast Alaska. They followed the Nass, Stikine, and Taku rivers to their mouths, then fanned out to occupy the many islands. Although archeologists do not know for certain that Tlingits occupied it, a site on Baranof Island named Hidden Falls has been found. People lived there 8,000 years ago. When Tlingits first came to Sitka Sound is not known, but the Kiksadi Tlingits' oral history indicates that they had a permanent village there for a number of years before Euro-Americans arrived.⁵⁸

Because the Coast Mountains come right to the water's edge on Baranof Island, the large Tlingit winter village at Sitka stood on the beach. Fish, shellfish, and land animals were abundant in the area. This largess, combined with the moderate maritime climate, allowed the people to hunt and gather food relatively

58. Clark, Gerald H., editor, Managing a Nonrenewable Resource, The Hidden Falls Site, Auke Village, Archeology at Coffman Cove (Juneau: U.S. Forest Service, 1980): 5-6.

easily year-round. In late March the people began sea fishing for halibut and cod, and freshwater fishing for Dolly Varden. In early April, they gathered herring. Later that month, sea mammals migrating north passed through southeast Alaska waters. The Sitka Tlingits hunted sea otters, hair seal, fur seal, sea lion, and porpoise. Although whales passed en route north, the Sitka people did not hunt them.

Early in summer, most of the Sitka Tlingits moved to camps near the mouths of freshwater streams to fish for salmon. Kiksadi Tlingit families from the permanent village, Shee-Atika or "by the sea," at Nu-Tlan or Castle Hill, used a summer fishing camp, Gaja-Heen or "water coming from way up" at the mouth of Star-rigavan Creek and another at the mouth of Indian River. The people most commonly trapped salmon in rock weirs or hooked them. Other Sitka Tlingits embarked on trading and war voyages early in summer. They might travel as far south as Prince of Wales and the Queen Charlotte islands. The Tlingits were frequently at war among themselves and with the Haida people to the south. They fought to obtain slaves, new hunting and fishing territories, and to increase their material possessions.

In late summer, families moved to hunting camps. There the women and children gathered berries, roots, and grasses. The men hunted deer, black bears, brown bears, mountain goats, and sheep. With the approach of winter, the Sitka people returned to the large village at Castle Hill. Year-round they could dig clams and gather crabs from the nearby tidal flats.⁵⁹

The Sitka spruce forests that covered the lower elevations of Baranof Island provided wood that was used to build houses and provide heat. At their permanent village the Sitka people lived in large, rectangular, gable-roofed plank houses. The houses measured up to 30 by 40 feet. As many as 12 families and their slaves lived in a house. The Sitka village had a number of these houses. At their seasonal camps, the people had smaller wood structures.⁶⁰

59. Khlebnikov, Kyrill T., *Colonial Russian America* (Portland: The Press of the Oregon Historical Society, 1976): 29.

The people also used wood to make canoes. Although the coastal waterways through southeast Alaska were dangerous, they provided the best transportation routes through the region. The Tlingits had travel, war, work, and hunting canoes. A canoe was made from a single tree. Typically, the canoes were long, narrow, and high-pointed at the bow and stern. For their larger war canoes the Sitka Tlingits traded with the Haida people to the south who lived on Prince of Wales and the Queen Charlotte islands where western red cedar was available.⁶¹

Social structure

Because of the mild climate and lush flora and fauna that made subsistence relatively easy, the Tlingits had time to develop a complex social system and to pursue a high degree of aesthetic creativity. The people based their beliefs on kinship and communication with all living things.

Tlingit territory encompassed most of today's southeast Alaska. It was divided into 13 or 14 areas called kwans that each had from one to six permanent villages. Three groups, the Sitka kwan, Husnuwu kwan, and Kake kwan, claimed parts of Baranof Island. The west side of the island was the territory of the Sitkans.⁶²

Within a kwan, there were clans based on kinship. Clans owned salmon streams, hunting grounds, berry patches, sealing rocks, house sites, family crests or emblems, and spirits. The head of the clan guarded its properties and directed trading activities. Clan chiefs had power, rank, and wealth. They belonged to the nobility. The nobility spoke for a clan and preserved its honor. The other people were commoners and slaves. Most Tlingits were

60. Gunther, Erna, *Indian Life on the Northwest Coast of North America* (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1975): 178.

61. Gunther, 1975: 178.

62. Krause, Aurel, *The Tlingit Indians* (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1979): map.

commoners who did the necessary day-to-day work. Slaves could be captured or purchased. They performed the more onerous and dangerous tasks. Slaves were not members of the clans they served.⁶³

Every Tlingit was a member of one of two social divisions in a village. One group was Raven. The other group was Eagle or Wolf. Children had to marry a member of the opposite group. Tlingits traced their descent matrilineally. Family members lived together in a clan house. They shared canoes, slaves, crests, songs, hunting, and ceremonial objects. The house leader, usually the oldest brother of the family matriarch, led ceremonial activities.⁶⁴

For events such as marriages, births, deaths, or the dedication of new crests or houses, the Tlingit people had elaborate rituals. When possible, members of a house hosted a potlatch for one of these events. Neighboring villagers were invited to come and feast and dance. The people told stories. The ceremonies involved giving and receiving gifts. Hosting a potlatch indicated wealth and social status.⁶⁵

The southeast Alaska Native people carved elaborate designs on their ceremonial masks, rattles, dance paddles, and even everyday utensils. Although some carved posts were inside houses and some mortuary columns stood near the gravehouses on the ridge behind their village, totem poles were not part of the Sitka Tlingits' heritage until historic times. The Haida and Tlingit Indians to the south are better known for carving totem poles. Such poles served several functions. Crest poles gave the ancestry of a particular family, history poles recorded the story of a clan, legend poles related experiences real and imagined,

63. Gunther, Erna, *Indian Life on the Northwest Coast of North America*: 180; and Krause, 1979: 111-112.

64. Ellen Hope Hays, personal communication, February 13, 1987.

65. Andrews, C.L., *Sitka The Chief Factory of the Russian American Company*, 3rd edition (Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1945): 62-63.

and memorial poles commemorated an individual. All bore symbols or crests that belonged to a particular lineage, house, or family. Symbols used by the Tlingit Raven group included ravens, hawks, puffins, sea gulls, land otter, mouse, moose, sea lion, whale, salmon, and frog. Those of the Tlingit Wolf and Eagle groups included wolf, eagle, brown bear, killer whale, dog fish, ground shark, and halibut. Traditionally, the totem carver was a member of the clan opposite the person who commissioned it.⁶⁶

Euro-Americans discover Sitka

On July 15, 1741, Alexei Chirikov, commander of St. Paul, one of the ships of the second Bering expedition, recorded sighting what has been assumed to be Lisianski Inlet on the northwest coast of Chichagof Island. He reported a broad harbor at 57 degrees 15 minutes north latitude. Ten armed men in a longboat were sent ashore to explore the land. Days passed and the men failed to return. A second boat set out, but it too disappeared. Smoke from fires onshore could be seen, but three weeks passed and nothing was seen of the missing men. Some Natives in two small canoes paddled out from the bay where the boats had gone. When Chirikov tried to entice the people in the canoes to come aboard St. Paul, both canoes turned away. On July 27, Chirikov and his officers decided to return to Kamchatka. St. Paul had no small boats left and without them it was impossible to send parties ashore to obtain critically-needed fresh water.⁶⁷

After the existence of land in the North Pacific was documented, navigators from several different European countries set sail to explore the Northwest Coast. Possibly the next to see Baranof Island was Don Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra, a Spanish navigator. In August 1775 he sailed his 36-foot schooner Sonora into today's Krestof Bay, which he called Port Guadalupe. Quadra wrote of a mountain "of the most regular and beautiful form I have ever seen." He named the mountain San Jacinto.⁶⁸

66. Knapp, 1980: 1-2.

67. Pethick, Derek, First Approaches to the Northwest Coast (Vancouver, British Columbia: Douglas and McIntyre, 1976): 25-26.

Three years later the famous British explorer, Capt. James Cook, named the peak Mount Edgecumbe, the name that is used today. The Russians called the mountain Saint Lazaria, assuming the peak was the one seen by Chirikov and so named by him. Cook's crew brought to the world's attention sea otter pelts taken from animals found in the waters of the North Pacific. Because of its extraordinarily glossy sheen and its fluffiness, the sea otter pelt was highly valued by the Chinese. The sea otter brought the Tlingits on Baranof Island into contact with Euro-Americans.⁶⁹

The First Russians at Sitka

By 1799 Sitka Sound was a favored trading spot for Euro-American traders. The Russians considered the predominantly British and American traders to be intruders in their domain. After a visit to the Sitka Sound area in 1795, Alexander Baranov, Chief Manager of the Shelikhov-Golikov Company, one of the companies organized into the Russian American Company in 1799, determined to build a trading post at the site. On July 7, 1799, Baranov returned to Sitka Sound with several other Russians and a number of Aleut hunters. Baranov negotiated with the local Tlingit chief for the right to occupy a tract of land at the mouth of Starrigavan Creek, four miles north of the large permanent Sheeatika village at Castle Hill. Construction of Archangel Saint Michael's Redoubt began immediately. The Russians built a large warehouse, stockade, blockhouse, blacksmith shop, residence for Baranov, quarters for the hunters, and a men's house. During the winter the Tlingits unsuccessfully attacked the post several times. Business called Baranov to Kodiak in 1800.⁷⁰ Baranov

68. Gunther, Erna, Indian Life on the Northwest Coast of North America: 12-15; and Andrews, 1945: 24.

69. DeArmond, 1978: 12-15; and Andrews, 1945: 24.

70. Tikhmenev, P.A., History of the Russian American Company Volume II Documents, Richard A. Pierce and Alton S. Donnelly, translators and editors, Materials for the Study of Alaska History No. 13 (Kingston, Ontario: The Limestone Press, 1979): 111-114; and Khlebnikov, 1976: 3.

left written instructions for Vasilii G. Medvednikov, whom he left in charge, discussing treatment of area Natives and construction of the fort. In the instructions, Baranov also pointed out the need to strengthen the company's economic and political position in southeast Alaska. It is clear from the instructions that the Russians feared the local Tlingits. After Baranov's departure, 25 Russians and 55 Aleuts staffed the post. In spring 1802, the population of the post was 29 Russians, 3 British deserters, 200 Aleuts, and some Kodiak women.⁷¹

Materialistic and militant, the Tlingits were shrewd traders and fierce enemies. The Russian traders had protested foreign competition for furs to their government and had appealed to the British, Spanish, French, and United States traders not to trade guns and ammunition for furs. By the late 1790s the fur trade competition in the North Pacific was keen, and few traders cooperated with the request of the Russians.

The Sitka-area Tlingits were divided among themselves in their feelings toward the Russian settlers. In June, 1802, a group of hostile Tlingits from Indian River and nearby Crab Apple Island led by a chief named Katlean attacked the redoubt. They looted and burned the barracks, storehouses, and fur warehouses. They more than 4,000 sea otter pelts and burned a ship being built. Most of the Russian and Aleut workers were killed. The dead numbered 20 Russians and up to 130 Aleuts. A few Russians and Aleuts who had been away from the post hunting or who fled into the forest later reached British and American trading ships that arrived in the harbor and relayed the news. Capt. James Barber of the British ship Unicorn held a Tlingit chief and several other Indians captive until the Russian and 18 Aleuts captured during the attack were turned over to him. Barber delivered the survivors and the news of the attack to Baranov at Kodiak on June 24.⁷²

71. Ramsay, Marina, translator, and Pierce, Richard A., editor, Documents on the History of the Russian-American Company, Materials for the Study of Alaskan History No. 7 (Kingston, Ontario: The Limestone Press, 1976): 114-127.

72. Khlebnikov, 1973: 37-39; Tikhmenev, 1979: 134-139.

In late September, 1804, Baranov returned to Sitka Sound with a large Russian and Aleut force to re-establish the redoubt. The 1,150 men were supported by four ships with cannon. One of the ships, Neva, had recently arrived in Russian America. Its commander, Urey Lisiansky, later wrote an account of the battle that ensued. The Sitkans' permanent winter village was clustered around Castle Hill. When the Russian ships sailed into sight, the Tlingits abandoned the village in favor of a stronger fortification to the east by Indian River, Shish-Kee-Nu, or "Sapling Fort." The Kiksadi Tlingits fortified the site in anticipation of the Russians' return. Fourteen buildings enclosed by a thick log wall stood at the site. The Tlingits reportedly numbered 750. The site provided fresh water and a potential route of escape. Further, the gravel shoals extending from the river's mouth prevented close approach by large vessels.⁷³

On September 29, the Russians went ashore at the winter village. Lisiansky named the site New Archangel. That evening a Tlingit ambassador came from the Indian River fort. The Russians asked that the chiefs come to visit. The ambassadors returned several times. Baranov asked that the Russians be permitted to occupy Castle Hill. When negotiations broke down, the Russians advised the Tlingits that they planned to begin firing at the Indian River fort. The Russians returned to their ships, moved them close to the fort, and began firing on October 1.

The Russians bombarded the Tlingit camp with 16 guns for several days. Then a number of Russians went ashore and battle ensued at Indian River. Baranov led the Russians. Chief Katlean led the Kiksadi Tlingits. A few men were killed and some wounded, including Baranov. The Russians were forced to return to their ships. They renewed their bombardment. Because their supply of gunpowder was exhausted and because they were afraid of the treatment they would receive from the Russians if captured, the Tlingits chose to abandon the fort and flee across the mountains to the north. After the Tlingits fled, the Russians burned the fort.⁷⁴

73. Khlebnikov, 1973: 46-48.

74. Lisiansky, 1968: 144-168.

The Russians were not sure where the Tlingits had gone. For a long time, all Russian hunting parties were on constant guard against attack. A few days after the battle, eight Aleuts were killed in Jamestown Bay and another was shot in the woods near the Russians' new fort.⁷⁵

The Tlingits escaped by following Indian River to its head and crossing the mountains to Katlean Bay. There they constructed canoes and moved to "Olga Point" where they lived for a year before moving to "Deadman's Reach" and finally to Sitkoh Bay on Peril Straits. At Sitkoh Bay they built a new village called Choch-Kanu, Halibut Fort.⁷⁶

The Russians built a new settlement, called Novo Archangelsk or New Archangel although generally known as Sitka, at the site of the Tlingit village at Castle Hill. The Russians named the hill Castle Hill, because it was the site for the Russian American Company governor's home. Although Baranov had his house on the hill, the first structure known as Baranov's Castle was built on the site in 1837, long after the first governor's death.

Around the kekur or hill, the Russians built a high, wooden stockade with three blockhouses, all armed with cannon and muskets. Almost a thousand trees were cut for the stockade. Inside the stockade, warehouses, barracks, and workshops stood. By summer 1805, 8 buildings had been finished and 15 gardens had been planted. As late as 1858, Tlingit warriors sporadically attacked the town and groups who were away from the post.⁷⁷

75. Khlebnikov, 1973: 47.

76. Andrews, 1945: 36; and Hall, George A., "Sitka National Monument, Alaska," manuscript, 1963. (Copy provided by author.)

77. Lisiansky, 1968: 218-244; Khlebnikov, 1976: 73-76; Golovin, 1983: 116.

Sitka becomes Russian America capital

In August 1808 New Archangel became the capital city of Russian America and the administrative center for the Russian American Company that had been chartered by the Russian government in 1799 to be its sole fur trader in North America. At that time, the Russians claimed land in North America that stretched along the coast from Norton Sound to California. Sitka became the cultural and commercial center for the Russians in North America. Officers and employees of the Russian American Company brought their families to Sitka. In 1833, 406 Russians lived at Sitka. With them were 307 Creoles (of Russian fathers and Native Alaskan mothers) and 134 Aleuts.⁷⁸

Ships from many European countries and America that came to the North Pacific to trade for furs, hunt whales, or explore stopped at Sitka. A shipyard had been established shortly after the town was founded. Over the next fifty years many vessels were repaired at the shipyard. Others were built there, including several steam vessels including Nikolai I and Muir. The steam engine for the latter was built at Sitka as well.⁷⁹

The community had brickyards, tanneries, and a foundry for casting brass, copper, and iron. At two sawmills near Sitka, Russians cut lumber for ships and buildings. Workers caught and salted fish for food and sale at several sites near the community. In the 1840s and 1850s, the Russians cut and shipped ice from the lakes at Sitka to California. For the ice industry they created Swan Lake, known to them as Labaishia Lake, from a low swamp.⁸⁰ An 1809 map of Sitka identifies a well in the center of

78. Wrangell, F.P., Russian America Statistical and Ethnographic Information, Mary Sadouski, trans., Richard A. Pierce, ed., Materials for the Study of Alaskan History No. 15 (Kingston, Ontario: The Limestone Press, 1980): 4-5.

79. Wrangell, 1980: 9; Tikhmenev, 1978: 209; and Fedorova, Svetlana G., The Russian Population in Alaska and California Late 18th Century-1867, Richard A. Pierce and Alton S. Donnelly, translators and editors, Materials for the Study of Alaska History No. 4 (Kingston, Ontario: The Limestone Press, 1973): 209.

town. An account in the 1840s identifies a cistern, thought to be at the same site, for water that was hauled about half a mile from a spring on a mountain-side.⁸¹

As part of the company charter, the Russian government required the Russian American Company to provide support for Russian Orthodox clergy in Russian America. In 1816, the Russians constructed the original Saint Michael's Russian Orthodox Church close to the ocean. In 1848 they replaced the church with a cathedral that was built in the center of town. In 1842-1843 the Russian-American Company built the Russian Bishop's House for the church. It is believed that Finnish ship builders constructed the two-story log building, which measured 63 feet long and 42 feet wide. Two frame additions, called galleries, were at the east and west ends of the building for stairways, latrines, and storage. They were to form an air space between the outdoors and indoors. Each gallery was 42 by 14 feet. The building became the center for the administration of the Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska.⁸²

The Kiksadi Tlingits returned to Sitka in 1821 and settled outside of the stockade. The area where they lived was commonly referred to as the ranche. The Tlingits and Russians never lived completely in harmony. The Russians allowed the Tlingits inside the stockade only during specified hours each day and locked the

80. Khlebnikov, 1976: 75-76.

81. Fedorova, 1973: 356ff.; and Michael, Henry N., editor, Lieutenant Zagoskin's Travels in Russian America, 1842-1844, The First Ethnographic and Geographic Investigations in the Yukon and Kuskokwim Valleys of Alaska, Arctic Institute of North America Translations from Russian Sources No. 7 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press for the Arctic Institute of North America, 1967): 70.

82. National Park Service, Russian Bishop's House National Historic Landmark nomination, March 17, 1983. Copy at Alaska Regional Office, Anchorage.

gates at sundown. If a Native was selling fish or game to the company, the transaction was conducted at a small window at the gate by one of the blockhouses.⁸³

By 1825, the community also had a hospital, an observatory, a library, and a museum. For outdoor recreation Sitka residents went boating, hunting, or on walks and picnics to the deep woods near Indian River. A route known as the Governor's Walk went from the wharf, through town, to Indian River. Cards, masquerades, theatricals, and dinners were common indoor recreation activities. The officers of the company had a club that Governor Adolf Etholin established in 1840. In general, the Russian settlement differed from most others in the New World in the 1700s and the 1800s because it was established by employees of a company who came to do a job instead of seeking religious freedom or to seek homes for themselves.⁸⁴

Americans take over

By the 1860s Russia's interest in North America was waning. It had relinquished its claims to lands south of Prince of Wales Island in the 1840s. The sea otter were virtually extinct in Alaska waters. Efforts to engage in whaling or in the land fur trade had not been economically successful. Company profits had declined. The settlements in Russian America had not become self-sufficient. Their remote location would make them difficult to defend. Russian and United States representatives signed a treaty to sell Russian America to the United States for \$7.2 million on March 29, 1867. The U.S. Congress ratified the treaty on June 20, 1867. The formal transfer ceremony took place on Castle Hill at Sitka on October 18, 1867. Alexei Pestchouroff, commissioner of the tsar, formally transferred all of Russian American to Maj. Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau, commissioner for the United States.

83. Khlebnikov, 1976: 101-104; and Golovin, 1983: 85.

84. Golovin, 1983: 118.

After the formal transfer of ownership, many details had to be attended to. Russian citizens in Alaska were given the option to return to Russia or become American citizens. At least 537 people left Alaska for Russia on Russian American Company vessels in 1867-1868. The Native people were expected to obey American laws, but did not become citizens until 1924. The U.S. Government made no provision for a territorial government. The first efforts to organize a civil government at Sitka in 1869 failed for lack of interest and lack of laws and the government disbanded in 1873.⁸⁵

Instead, the American government assigned the U.S. Army to administer affairs in Alaska. An Alaska District was created, with headquarters at Sitka. Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis was the first commanding officer. The five sub-posts established around the territory at Tongass, Wrangell, Kodiak, Kenai, and the Pribilof Islands in 1868 were closed in 1870 and the district was merged with the Department of Oregon headquartered at Vancouver Barracks, Washington.

A number of fortune seekers, traders, and adventurers, most from the western United States, rushed to Sitka in 1867 and 1868. The warehouses of the Russian American Company were emptied; much of the stockpiled merchandise was carried to San Francisco. With no organized government, drunkenness, crime, and prostitution flourished. The soldiers stationed at Sitka were no better behaved than the civilians. After the initial activity, Sitka's economy declined.⁸⁶

By 1870 when the U.S. Army conducted a census of the residents at Sitka, the population totalled 391 Russians and Creoles, 49 Americans excluding military personnel, and an estimated 1,200 Natives.⁸⁷

85. Andrews, 1945: 91-92.

86. Teichmann, 1963: 188; and Andrews, 1945: 98-99.

87. Tidball, John C., Report on the Territory of Alaska, 1870, House Executive Document No. 5, 42d Congress, 1st Session, 1871: 7.

The town had several stores, meat shops, a barber shop, a bakery, a sawmill, two breweries, and many saloons. Sitka traders collected about \$20,000 worth of pelts that year. The other major economic activities were fishing and shipping. The Tlingits continued to be allowed into the center of Sitka only during the day. One of the army's activities at Sitka in 1869 was construction of a one and one-half mile corduroy road from the town to Indian River to enable wagons to haul water and wood.⁸⁸

The U.S. Army troops left Sitka in 1877. The remaining representatives of the U.S. Government were the customs collector and deputy and the postmaster. The non-Native people at Sitka felt that the military presence had guaranteed safety from attacks by the Indians. A week after the troops departed, Sitka Tlingits tore down a portion of the stockade. Tensions between Natives and non-Natives at Sitka increased, until the non-Natives appealed first to the United States and then to the British for protection. The British sent HMS Osprey from Esquimault, Vancouver Island, to Sitka. Osprey arrived before USS Albatross. They found all quiet at Sitka. Following the public outcry over this incident, the U.S. Government assigned the navy to administer affairs in Alaska. The navy stationed Marines and a gunboat at Sitka. Although the U.S. Government established a civil government five years later, the navy remained at Sitka until 1912.⁸⁹

In 1884 Congress passed an Organic Act that provided for an appointed governor of Alaska and four commissioners. President Chester A. Arthur appointed John H. Kinkead, Sitka's postmaster, to be Alaska's first governor. The district headquarters for these government officials was Sitka.

88. Cracroft, 1980: 51; Tidball, 1871: 3.

89. Andrews, 1945: 101-104, 111-112.

Sitka settles down

For a few years after the purchase of Alaska, Sitka continued to be the center for the collection of furs in Alaska. In contrast to the Russian system, more than one fur trading company operated in Alaska under the Americans. Sitka was not close to the richest fur trading areas and increasingly was bypassed by the fur traders and trading companies. Trade in furs, however, continued to be a major local economic activity at Sitka. During their heyday in the 1910s and 1920s, a few fur farms operated in Sitka and on several of the islands nearby.⁹⁰

Among those who came to Sitka following the purchase were a number of prospectors. In 1870 gold was found at nearby Silver Bay near the town. For many years miners worked a mine in the upper Indian River valley. Ten years after the first discovery, Joe Juneau and Richard Harris were grubstaked by Sitka resident and miner George Pilz. They discovered placer gold in creeks near today's Juneau. Following that discovery, many residents of Sitka left for the booming mining towns of Juneau and Douglas. Gold mining continued in the Sitka area, however, until World War II. More than three-quarters of a million ounces of gold was recovered from Sitka area mines. Gypsum, discovered in 1902, was commercially mined in the Sitka mining district until 1923.⁹¹

To reach some of the mining sites, a bridge was built over the lower portion of Indian River in 1888. Funds to build the bridge were raised by subscription. I.B. Hammond built the bridge at a cost of \$142.50. The last mention of the structure was a call for additional funds so that the structure could be painted.⁹²

90. Roppel, 1982: 74-75.

91. Hinckley, 1972: 133-134; and Roppel, 1982: 93, 96-100.

92. The [Sitka] Alaskan, May 26, 1888: 3.

American missionaries also headed for Sitka during the 1870s. The Reverend John G. Brady and Fannie E. Kellogg, of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, opened a school for Native children in 1878. Later, the school became Sitka Industrial Training School, and subsequently it was named to honor the long-time Presbyterian missionary Sheldon Jackson.⁹³ The Russian Orthodox Church continued its mission at Sitka after the 1867 transfer. In 1897 Monk Anatolii Kamenskii, working at Sitka, requested funding from the church for a school building. The Russian Bishop's House, then used as an orphanage, was too crowded and in need of repair.⁹⁴

In a few short years, Juneau surpassed Sitka in population and economic activity. When larger mining operations started at Juneau and nearby Douglas and those boom towns became more stable communities, people began to clamor to have the capital of the district moved from Sitka to Juneau. In 1901 the decision was made to move the capital. The actual move, however, was not completed until 1906.

The loss of the government payroll impacted Sitka and between 1900 and 1910 Sitka's population declined 25 percent. As the fishing and fish processing industries grew between 1910 and 1920, the population grew by 13 percent. In 1878 the Cutter Packing Company opened one of the first two salmon canneries in Alaska at Starrigavan Bay near Sitka. Although it closed shortly after the 1879 season, several other canneries opened in the vicinity during the 1880s. A few salteries operated for several years as well. A market developed for halibut, and a cold storage plant opened at Sitka in the early 1900s. For a brief time during the 1910s a shore-based whaling station operated at nearby Sitkalidak Island. A herring fishery flourished during the 1920s and 1930s. Over the years a number of fishermen and cannery workers made Sitka their home.⁹⁵

93. Andrews, 1945: 104-105.

94. Kamenskii, Archimandrite Anatolii, Tlingit Indians of Alaska, Sergei Kan, translator, Rasmuson Library Historical Translation Series Vol. II (Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 1985): 139-140.

95. Roppel, 1982: 76-89.

Sitka's other major economic activity was tourism. In 1879, John Muir made the first of five trips to Alaska. Upon his return to California, he wrote several articles about southeast Alaska. Others ventured north. Some, such as Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore, wrote accounts of their trips that were subsequently published. Beginning in the 1880s, increasing numbers of people began to visit Alaska to see its scenic wonders, Native people, and evidences of its Russian heritage. All of the steamships stopped at Sitka.⁹⁶ Many Russian buildings still stood in the town. The Russian Orthodox Cathedral with its beautiful icons was a major attraction. In the 1890s the town residents restored Baranov's Castle, but the wooden structure burned in 1894. In addition to viewing the buildings, visitors could purchase Native artifacts such as baskets and wood carvings, and follow the boardwalk from the wharf through town to the 1804 battle site and Indian River.⁹⁷

The thousands of people who headed to the Klondike gold fields in 1897 and 1898 bypassed Sitka. The community was not along the Inside Passage route that took stampeders from San Francisco, Portland, and Seattle to Dyea and Skagway. The increased attention paid to Alaska as a result of the gold discoveries in the north impacted Sitka in other ways. An agricultural station opened in 1898, and the station's chief made Sitka his headquarters. A magnetic observatory opened the same year. After Tongass National Forest was created in 1902, the U.S. Forest Service had a ranger at Sitka. When the submarine cable was completed in 1906, Sitka was connected to the rest of the world by telegraph.⁹⁸ But for the most part, after the capital moved, Sitka was a small, relatively isolated community during the early 1900s. Fishing, fish processing, and tourism were the mainstays

96. Andrews, 1945: 108-109.

97. Krause, Aurel, and Krause, Arthur, Journey to the Tlingits, Margot Krause McCaffrey, trans. (Haines, Alaska: Haines Centennial Commission, 1981): 48.

98. Andrews, 1945: 116; and National Register of Historic Places nominations, on file at Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage.

of the local economy. Several residents wrote that the major event in town was the weekly arrival of the mail boat. Beginning in the 1920s, a few float planes brought visitors and a little freight to town. The population was around 1,200 people.

In 1913 Sitka was selected by the first Territorial Legislature as the location for the first Pioneers' Home for indigent prospectors who had spent many years in Alaska. In 1934 a large, second building was added. Southeast Alaska Natives organized the Alaska Native Brotherhood at Sitka in 1912. The group formed to fight for citizenship rights and equal treatment. Camps soon organized in other Southeast Alaskan communities, and a companion group, the Alaska Native Sisterhood, also formed. By 1920 Sitka had become a small, stable community that changed little until World War II. About 1904 the Sitka Wharf and Power Company tapped Indian River for a water-distribution system that served the center of town. A water-wagon, filled at Indian River, served outlying areas. As late as 1940 the U.S. Marshal had the people in jail run the water wagon to Indian River. After the five-gallon cans were filled they were delivered to residents for \$5.00 a week. Around 1942 and 1943 additional water lines were constructed to serve more parts of the town.⁹⁹

Just before World War II started, the U.S. Government began a military build-up that included establishing bases in Alaska. The old naval reservation on Japonski Island was selected for a U.S. Navy seaplane base. From there, PBY airplanes could patrol the North Pacific. An army base opened at Sitka to guard the naval station. In addition, a radio "beam" station was constructed on Biorka Island, and gun emplacements were installed on Harbor Peak and on several islands in Sitka Sound. The military personnel and construction crews brought new life to Sitka.

After the war ended, the bases closed. The government transferred their buildings to the U.S. Department of the Interiors' Alaska Native Service for use as a medical and education facility. The hospital was one of the main centers for treatment

99. Andrews, 1945: 115; and Mair, A. Peter, II, and Bailey, Douglas L, "Central Interceptor Project (Contract No. 5) for the City and Borough of Sitka," Anchorage: Tryck, Nyman, & Hayes, Eng., 1983): 26-27.

of tuberculosis during the late 1940s and early 1950s. It was transferred to the U.S. Public Health Service in 1955. In 1948, the Bureau of Indian Affairs opened a secondary-level boarding school, Mt. Edgecumbe High School, at the site. It served Native children from throughout Alaska. In 1985 the State of Alaska took over operation of the school. Sheldon Jackson Industrial Training School evolved into a college offering two and four year programs. After statehood in 1959, the State of Alaska opened a Public Safety Academy at Sitka, and a few years later the University of Alaska started a community college there. Sitka became a regional education center.

Several sawmills operated at Sitka throughout the 1900s. Lumber from Sitka had been important in building the gold rush boom towns of Dyea and Skagway. Some lumbering occurred over the years. After World War II, there was increased interest in leasing areas on Baranof Island for logging. A Japanese-owned pulp mill at the mouth of Silver Bay began operating in 1959. Sitka's population increased by 63 percent as approximately 500 people found work at the mill. In 1977, the Coast Guard established an air station on Japonski Island, in part to enforce the new 200-mile offshore fishing limit.¹⁰⁰

The tourism industry flourished in the post-World War II era as more people learned about Alaska. Until the mid-1950s steamship companies offered passenger service and organized tours, particularly through southeast Alaska. As it had been before the war, Sitka was a favorite tourist stop. The national monument, availability of Native arts and crafts, and remaining structures from the Russian period, most particularly St. Michael's Cathedral, attracted people. In January 1966, the wooden cathedral burned. Fortunately, measured drawings of the structure had been prepared by the U.S. Forest Service and completed by the National Park Service in 1962. Sitka residents spearheaded an effort to reconstruct the cathedral on its original site, which by the 1960s was in the center of downtown Sitka. For the Alaska Purchase Centennial in 1967, the State of Alaska improved a commemorative park atop Castle Hill with cannon, interpretive markers, and flagstaffs. That same year, the

100. Roppel, 1982: 91-95.

city opened its community Centennial Building and the Sitka Historical Society started a museum there. The Visitor Center at Sitka National Monument, built in 1965, further enhanced tourism. The federal Board of Indian Arts and Crafts had started a program at Sitka in 1962 and its Native artists moved to the new center. About the same time the Sitka Summer Music Festival began.

During the 1960s transportation improvements brought more visitors to Sitka. The State of Alaska began its Marine Highway system in 1963. In 1967, jet air service to Sitka from Anchorage and Seattle started.

In 1972 the national monument was redesignated a national historical park and its mission expanded to interpret the Russian experience in Alaska. The Russian Bishop's House was added to the park. There had been 150 buildings in Sitka in 1867. When the house was added to the park, it was one of only four buildings surviving from 1867.

The 1980 census gave the population of Sitka as 7,803. Ten percent of the people are Alaska Natives.¹⁰¹

101. U.S. Census (Washington: GPO, 1982): 9.



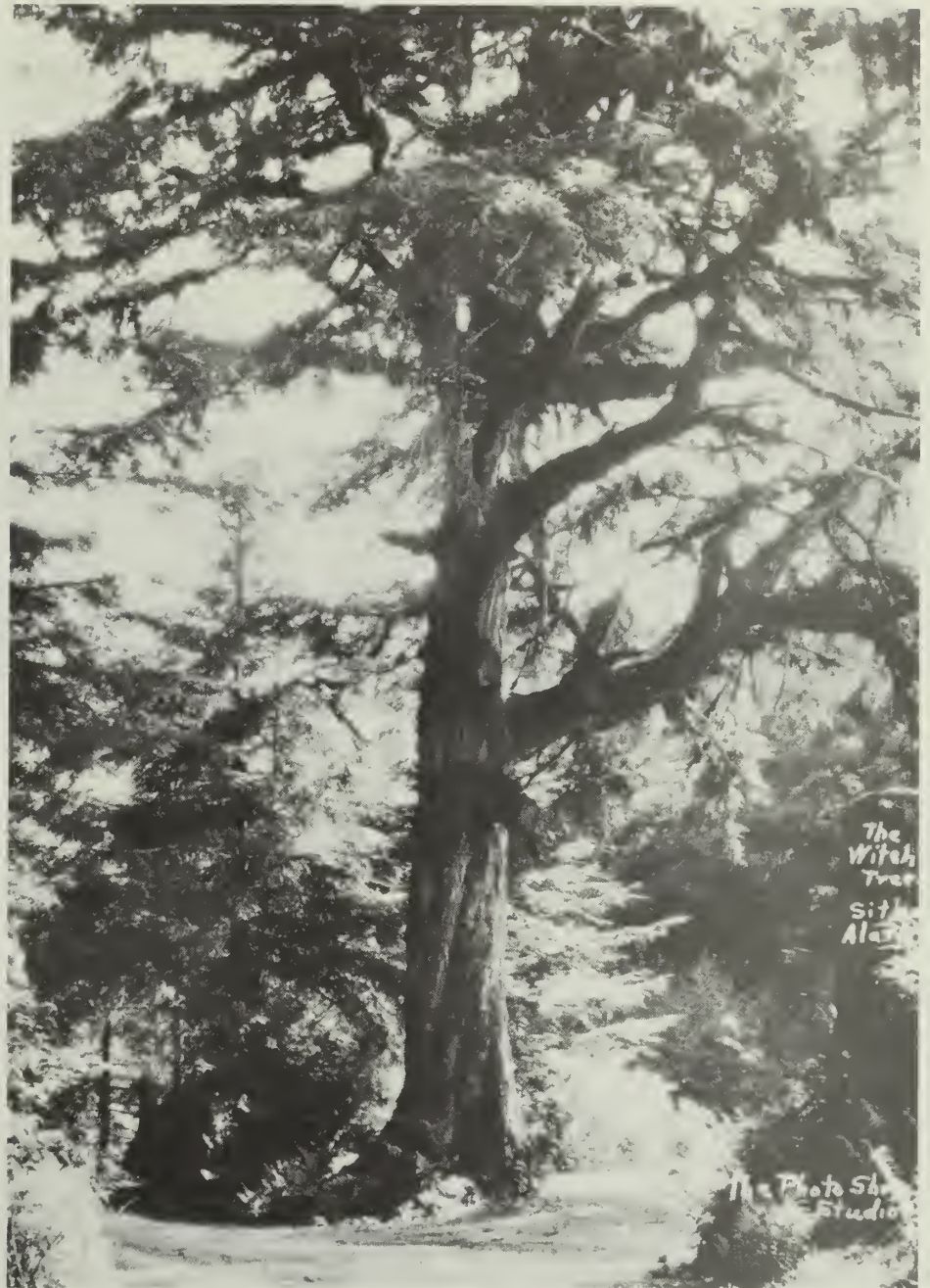
Indian River bridge, probably in 1904. (Photo courtesy of Anchorage Museum of History and Art, #B63.19.3)



Totem poles at Old Kasaan, 1908. (Photo courtesy of the Alaska Historical Library, Case and Draper Collection)



Lovers Lane, 1908. (Photo courtesy of Anchorage Museum of History and Art, #B63.19.3)



The "Witch Tree," one of the early points of interest in Sitka National Monument. (Photo courtesy of Sitka National Historical Park)



Tlingit ceremonial festival, Sitka, date unknown. (Photo courtesy of Anchorage Museum of History and Art, #B80.50.31)

Naval Air Station, Sitka, on Japonski Island, 1944. (Photo courtesy of Alaska Historical Library)



CHAPTER 3
SITKA NATIONAL MONUMENT, EARLY YEARS
Introduction

Overview

This section treats the years between 1910, when a presidential proclamation designated the park as a historical monument, and 1940, when the first National Park Service employee arrived to staff the park. The period encompassed General Land Office custody of the park between 1910 and 1916, National Park Service assumption of responsibility in 1916, and a variety of subsequent management approaches. Significant additions to the park resources during the period included donation of a replica Russian blockhouse by Sitka residents.

Monument Administration

Agencies vie for monument control

When Sitka National Monument was created in 1910, the National Park Service had not yet come into being. It took some time to determine which agency would take responsibility for national monuments.

Local interest in the park remained after the Sitka property was assigned monument status. The District of Alaska government also continued its concern for the park, begun when the seat of government was at Sitka between 1884 and 1906. The Alaska Road Commission, originally known as the Board of Road Commissioners for Alaska, also tended to matters in the park. Congress had created the commission within the War Department in 1905 to build and maintain roads in Alaska. An army engineer officer appointed by the Secretary of War and two other army officers drawn from troops stationed in Alaska oversaw the commission's work.¹⁰²

102. Naske, Claus-M., "Alaska Road Commission Historical Narrative Final Report," contract study for the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, 1983: 24, in files of IPH/JMA-ALASKA, Anchorage.

Given Tongass National Forest Supervisor William A. Langille's role in creating the monument, the Department of the Interior might have asked the Forest Service for help in managing the new monument at Sitka. But national-level rivalries between the Departments of Agriculture and Interior were reflected in antagonistic relations between field divisions.¹⁰³

On September 16, 1912, the Secretary of the Interior decreed that A. Christensen, chief of the General Land Office Field Division at Seattle, would superintend all national monuments in Alaska. Christensen, in turn, directed that employees of his office -- located in Seattle -- whenever in the Sitka area, should exercise such supervision as they could over the monument without incurring additional expense. In particular, they were to act "with the object of preventing unauthorized exploration or vandalism, or the removal of relics, and...be prepared to report on...action in the matter."¹⁰⁴

First report documents Sitka National Monument

W.J. Lewis, Special Agent of the General Land Office at Juneau, was the first Interior official to visit and report on the new monument. He made two trips to the Sitka in 1912. His report, issued in May of 1913, was both thorough and sensitive to issues that were to remain significant in park management and is therefore quoted here extensively.

Landing from the ship one passes first through the old Russian Custom House, with its walls built of massive hewed logs still in a good state of preservation. Thence past the old log trading post now falling into decay and soon to become a pile of ruins. On the sidewalks sit a number of native women, young and old, with their baskets, their moccasins, and various wares and trinkets spread out before them to

103. Rakestraw, 1981: 55-57.

104. Secretary of the Interior, September 12, 1912, to A. Christensen, and Christensen, September 24, 1912, cited in Lewis, W.J., May 22, 1913, to A. Christensen, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

catch the eye of the tourist souvenir hunter. The handiwork of the Sitka natives is generally of superior quality, and the price of many of their wares is lower than at other places in Alaska.

The walk to the Park leads through the main street of the town, around the bay about a mile southerly and past the Presbyterian Mission grounds and buildings. The road is firm and clean, about all the mould or mud being washed away, exposing the natural gravel that seems to come almost to the surface.

Entering the Park the road plunges at once into the shadow of the timber. Except for a few little openings where the Totem Poles are planted, the roads and trails all wind about in the timber. The trees are mostly small spruce, not more than 18 inches in diameter, but in among these larger trees is a dense growth of smaller trees, brush, fallen timber, and debris in all stages of decay. This is so dense that one would make very slow progress in attempting to pass through it. Consequently all travel is confined to the roads and trails.

In the immediate vicinity of the water front (see plat), the timber appears to be a reproduction. It is evident that the land here was cleared at one time from the fact that the ground is now free from debris and well grassed among the trees.

At several points along the road one is greeted by those interesting figures in wood, the Totem Poles. Silently they stand, each telling its own story. To understand the Totem it is necessary to be familiar with the history of the family it represents, when it will be seen that each figure or emblem is designed to immortalize some historic event or some noble deed of a member of the family.

Lewis commented in detail on many of the monument's resources.

The totems were in good repair, set in concrete or cement in the summer of 1911 after having originally been set in gravel. Their backs were hollowed out, and he speculated that this had been done to reduce their weight when they were shipped to St. Louis for the 1904 exposition.

Lewis recommended that the poles be painted front and back to help preserve them. He also suggested that "A good NATIVE mechanic" should be employed to replace damaged or missing parts. Figures on some of the poles were broken or missing, eyes and ears were knocked off, and the eyes of some were filled with birdshot.

On the site of the "Native stockade of 1802" four small totems had been set as corner posts in anticipation of a reconstruction of a traditional community house and a giant totem had been located before the prospective door.

The site of the "grave" of the Russian midshipman and six sailors required attention. Sitkans who counted Russians among their forebears were making an effort to raise money to erect a permanent monument there. Only about \$45 had been collected.

...the natural condition of the ground is in many places most interesting and instructive to the tourist. Along the winding trails near Indian River are found vigorous shrubbery bearing a variety of wild berries and wild currants. Then the portions of the Park in their natural condition offer an exceptional opportunity for the visitor from the States to study the native timber growth, the wild mosses, and the small verdure.

The trails were in good condition, but guide boards needed to be erected at each intersection. These would help visitors to find their way out of the park.

Lewis also commented at length on the museum on the campus of the Sheldon Jackson school. He had been unable to find out if it was owned by the school or by "some historical or ethnological society," but recommended that the federal government acquire its collections.

In my opinion the national Government should try to purchase the collection of relics in the museum at Sitka. The thousands of relics collected and lying indiscriminately in the show cases in this museum

should be systematically catalogued, and a careful historical sketch prepared, setting forth the use made of each implement and the function it performed in the social system of the people.

Lewis strongly asserted that serious effort to preserve to posterity the history of Alaska's Native people should not be left to chance, or to the efforts of "some single patriotic individual or patriotic society."

He then summarized his report by recommending that the totem poles be repaired, guide boards be set up, a permanent stone monument be placed at the Russian sailors' "grave," trails be cleared and rehabilitated, and the Sheldon Jackson museum collection be purchased.¹⁰⁵

While the General Land Office of the Interior Department had official responsibility for the Sitka monument, the War Department's Board of Road Commissioners for Alaska was doing some work in the monument. The board had previously spent \$3,500 to build a bridge over Indian River,¹⁰⁶ and it continued expenditures through the years to make repairs to the road through the park.¹⁰⁷

Appropriations and visitation increase

The Sitka Camp of the Arctic Brotherhood was soon asking that money be appropriated for monument maintenance. This was only the first of a number of instances in which the Sitka camp took an interest in the monument.

105. Lewis, W.J., "Report on Sitka National Monument," May 22: 1913, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

106. Smith, E. Otis, Camp Sitka No. 6, Arctic Brotherhood, November 16, 1908, to the President in RG 79 Selected Documents.

107. Moore, J.A., Special Agent, General Land Office, August 26, 1916, to Commissioner, General Land Office, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

The brotherhood, a male fraternal organization, was open to men who had hiked the Chilkoot Trail to Lake Bennett. Like many such organizations, the brotherhood shrouded itself in ceremony and regalia including secret initiation rites, robes, and pins for members. In addition to its social activities, the brotherhood also sponsored community service projects. Its ten camps in communities around Alaska and the pioneer character of its members made the brotherhood a significant political force in the newly-created Territory of Alaska.¹⁰⁸

In January of 1913, James Wickersham, Alaska's voteless delegate to Congress, forwarded the Arctic Brotherhood petition to Washington.¹⁰⁹

About the same time, the Alaska Territorial Legislature forwarded a joint resolution to the Secretary of the Interior asking that \$5,000 be spent on Sitka National Monument.¹¹⁰ Concurrently, Wickersham renewed his efforts to encourage the Interior Department to take action with regard to Sitka. He asked that the department publish Lewis' report on Sitka and asked for an annual appropriation of \$5,000 for maintenance of the Sitka monument.¹¹¹

The secretary's reply was not encouraging. Although Lewis' report would be considered for publication "if conditions warrant and funds are available for the purpose," the secretary advised that it might be inadvisable to attempt to obtain appropriations for individual monuments. Instead, the department had been

108. Antonson, Joan M. and William S. Hanable, *Alaska's Heritage*, Alaska Historical Commission Studies in History No. 133 (Anchorage: The Alaska Historical Society for the Alaska Historical Commission, 1986): 515.

109. Wickersham, James, January 16, 1913, to Secretary of the Interior Walter L. Fisher, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

110. Lewis, May 22, 1913, to A. Christensen, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

111. Wickersham, James, July 24, 1913, to the Secretary of the Interior, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

trying for several years to obtain "a small appropriation for general administrative purposes in connection with the National Monuments, thus far without success."¹¹²

Wickersham and other Alaskans kept up the pressure. In 1914 the Interior Department asked Congress to appropriate \$1,500 for maintenance of the Sitka monument.¹¹³

No money was forthcoming. In 1914 Christensen advised the Commissioner of the General Land Office that none of his staff had been able to visit Sitka since Lewis' 1912 visit. Christensen noted that the Secretary of the Interior had appointed Arthur G. Shoup, a Sitka attorney, to oversee the territorial home for Alaskan pioneers at Sitka. Shoup, born in Challis, Oregon, in 1880, had come to Sitka with his parents in 1897. He studied political science and law at the University of Washington for three years, then served as Deputy United States Marshal at Ketchikan and Sitka from 1902 to 1910. By 1910 he was practicing law at Sitka, where he went on to serve three terms as mayor. His father, James McCain Shoup, had been an Idaho state senator before serving as U.S. Marshal at Sitka from 1897 to 1906 and at Juneau from 1906 to 1909.¹¹⁴

Special Agent Lewis recommended Shoup as the best man at Sitka through whom the department might work. According to Lewis, Shoup had worked with Langille to have the monument established. Shoup was willing to assume charge of the monument and use his best efforts to prevent vandalism. He estimated that \$5,000 was needed for repairs at the monument and recommended that an archway be erected at the entrance.¹¹⁵

112. Secretary of the Interior, July 31, 1913, to James Wickersham, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

113. Wickersham, James, April 15, 1914, to the Secretary of the Interior; Miller, Adolph C., Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, April 20, 1914, to James Wickersham, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

114. DeArmond and Atwood, 1977: 91.

115. Christensen, A., May 20, 1914, to Commissioner, General Land Office; Lewis, W.J., May 13, 1914, to A. Christensen; Shoup, Arthur G.,

The situation had not changed by the following year. Christensen reported that his staff had still not visited Sitka. The monument still needed repairs. The number of visitors, however, had risen from an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 in Fiscal Year 1914 (July 1, 1913 - June 30, 1914) to 9,000 to 10,000 in Fiscal Year 1915 (July 1, 1914 to June 30, 1915). The visitor figures were estimated by counting the number of steamers docking at Sitka and assuming that about 100 passengers visited the monument during each port call. In 1914, for instance, the steamers City of Seattle, Dolphin, State of California, and Spokane made two trips per month to Sitka with about 100 passengers each over a four-month tourist season.¹¹⁶

Although the field division responsible for the monument, now the Alaska Field Division headquartered at Anchorage, speculated that visitation at Sitka might be up because of the war in Europe, the count for Fiscal Year 1916 showed a decline. Somewhere between 6,000 and 7,000 visitors were estimated.¹¹⁷

Some visitors were traveling through the park in two-horse-drawn vehicles. There was no objection to this traffic. The vehicles were light and no damage was being done to the road. The road was in good condition as the Alaska Road Commission had spent approximately \$1,500 making repairs and gravelling it. The Indian River bridge was also in good condition, but trails on both sides of the river needed work. About \$500 was needed for this rehabilitation, and an additional \$750 was needed for totem pole rehabilitation. Another \$100 was needed for guide boards and \$500 to \$1,500 could be used for a stone tablet at the entrance to the park. Without some sort of identifying entrance

April 30, 1914, to A. Christensen, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

116. Lewis, May 13, 1914; Christensen, A., July 24, 1915, to Commissioner, General Land Office, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

117. Prasch, Martin W., Acting Chief, Alaska Field Division, General Land Office, June 2, 1916, to Commissioner, General Land Office, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

sign, "hundreds of tourists [were] passing through the park each year without getting any information as to the monument itself, and even knowing that the park is set aside as a National Monument."¹¹⁸

This situation began to change soon after Congress created the National Park Service in 1916 to care for the nation's national parks and monuments.

Officials search for Sitka's first custodian

Robert B. Marshall, general superintendent of the national parks in Washington, wrote to Arthur Shoup in December of 1916 stating that it was possible to set aside about \$300 for work at the Sitka monument. He offered Shoup the position of custodian of the monument at a token salary of \$2 per month. Shoup replied on January 5 that he would be glad to accept the appointment. The \$300 would be adequate for the cost of repairs to the "big totem," which needed to be painted and supported with guy wires. The other totems needed painting too. Also, nothing had been done about brush in the park since federal prisoners had been removed from Sitka about 1905. Work of that kind, wrote Shoup, was badly needed.¹¹⁹

This auspicious start quickly came to a halt. Within a month, National Park Service officials advised Shoup that he could not be appointed custodian since he was "admitted to practice as an attorney before the Department of the Interior." Moreover, it appeared desirable to defer work until the \$300 could be supplemented with money from the next year's appropriation.¹²⁰

118. Moore, J.A., Special Agent, General Land Office, August 26, 1916, to Commissioner, General Land Office, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

119. Marshall, R.B., Superintendent, National Park Service, December 22, 1916, to Arthur G. Shoup; Shoup, Arthur G., January 5, 1917, to R.B. Marshall, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

120. Cotter, Jos. J., Acting Superintendent, National Park Service, January 31, 1917, to Arthur G. Shoup, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

What followed was a series of attempts to arrange for management of the monument with Shoup maintaining a strong influence. He replied to advice that he could not serve as monument custodian with a recommendation that Ross Reed of Sitka be appointed at a rate of 62.5 cents per hour for repair work and token compensation otherwise. Shoup also commented cryptically that "the other man" would not have time to give proper attention to the park.¹²¹

Horace M. Albright, acting director of the service, responded that the desired appropriation was still pending. Appointment of a custodian and improvement work at Sitka must wait until the money was available.¹²²

Albright and the man for whom he was acting in 1917, Stephen T. Mather, provided leadership for the National Park Service during most of the early years of Sitka National Monument. Mather was appointed director of the National Park Service in 1916 and he immediately selected Albright as his assistant.¹²³ The two men faced a tremendous job in making sense out of the many disparate properties lumped together in the new organization. Immediate pressures as well as personal proclivities appear to have directed their attention to parks in the American west such as Yellowstone and Yosemite. It is understandable that they had little time for the 57-acre tract in far-away Alaska.

Records show no other action with respect to Sitka until the summer of 1918. Then, Territorial Governor Thomas C. Riggs, Jr., suggested to park service director Mather that E.W. Merrill be appointed as custodian. Riggs noted that he had "gone over the matter" with Mr. Shoup.¹²⁴ Elbridge Warren Merrill was a Boston

121. Shoup, Arthur G., May 25, 1917, telegram to Superintendent, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

122. May 25, 1917, to Arthur G. Shoup, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

123. Foresta, Ronald A., *America's National Parks and Their Keepers* (Washington, D.C.: Resources for the Future, 1984): 9-12.

124. Riggs, Thomas C. Jr., July 20, 1918, to Stephen T. Mather, in RG 79 Selected documents.

engraver and news photographer who had come to Alaska in 1897. He arrived in Sitka that year, is said to have gone on to the Klondike, and returned to Sitka in 1899. After working at odd jobs in Sitka, Merrill opened a curio store and photography studio in 1905. His store was located in downtown Sitka in the Mills Building, and his studio was on Jamestown Bay. At the time it was accessible only by a footpath that wound along the beach and through Indian River Park. In 1906, Governor Brady hired Merrill for work at the park where he arranged the totem poles earlier exhibited at St. Louis and Portland. Later Merrill supplied photographs supporting the petition for national monument status for the Indian River Park and also for Lewis' 1913 report.¹²⁵

While waiting for the National Park Service to act on his recommendation that it make Merrill official custodian of Sitka National Monument, Riggs "on [his] own hook," authorized Merrill to replace broken pieces on some of the totem poles and to cut limbs of trees that were rubbing on poles. He also estimated that \$25,000 was needed for totem pole preservation.¹²⁶

On receiving this estimate, Mather advised Riggs that only \$10,000 was available for work on all the monuments for which the park service was responsible. Of this amount, \$1,000 had been allocated for work at Sitka. The park service accepted the recommendation of Merrill and would take steps necessary for his appointment.¹²⁷

What followed may have been an illustration of the incompatibility of Merrill's artistic temperament with bureaucratic requirements. The park service showered Merrill with forms and guidelines, including the "Metric Manual for Soldiers."¹²⁸ Merrill failed to respond.

125. Chamber, Scott, "Elbridge Warren Merrill," in *The Alaska Journal* 7 (3) Summer 1977: 139-145.

126. Riggs, July 20, 1918.

127. Mather, Stephen T., August 9, 1918, to Thomas C. Riggs, Jr., in RG 79 Selected Documents.

By April of 1919 Riggs was writing to Washington that Merrill was "making no move" at Sitka. Could he authorize repair at the monument and to what extent? Riggs also relayed a report from Shoup that someone was trespassing on monument grounds and requested that the monument boundaries be resurveyed.¹²⁹ Albright replied for the National Park Service, authorizing expenditure of up to \$1,000 and asking if Shoup could not find someone else at Sitka. He also arranged for a surveyor from the General Land Office staff at Juneau to resurvey the monument boundaries.¹³⁰ In subsequent correspondence, F.C. Sheridan of Sitka was recommended to do the necessary work at the monument. Since the 1919 appropriation had been diverted for pressing needs at two monuments in Arizona, it was decided that he should not begin until after July 1, 1919.¹³¹

Merrill upset these tidy arrangements. On June 11, Riggs advised Mather that Merrill already had the work at Sitka underway. He had expended \$400 but was willing to wait for reimbursement until new appropriations were made. Riggs suggested allowing Merrill to proceed, noting that the work should not be stopped. Sitka's damp climate made June the most suitable time of year for the required work.

128. Albright, Horace M., September 5, 1919 and January 3, 1919, to E.W. Merrill, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

129. Riggs, Thomas C. Jr., April 30, 1919, telegram to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

130. Albright, Horace M., May 5, 1919, telegram to Thomas C. Riggs, Jr.; Albright, Horace M., May 5, 1919, to Clay Tallman, Commissioner, General Land Office; in RG 79 Selected Documents.

131. Riggs, Thomas C. Jr., May 13, 1919, to Stephen T. Mather; Albright, Horace M., June 10, 1919, to Thomas C. Riggs Jr.; in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Mather's answer reflected the creativity of a skilled administrator. He understood that "Merrill does not care to qualify as custodian." He was prepared to appoint a custodian when a suitable candidate was found. In the meantime, he considered that Merrill was painting the poles under Sheridan's supervision with Shoup's advice. Up to \$700 could be expended from 1919 funds and an additional \$800 could be anticipated from 1920 funds that would become available after July 1, 1919.¹³² Working under this "understanding," Merrill seems to have completed his tasks by June 30, 1919. In early July he reported on his project. The monument had 18 large totem poles, painted in six colors. Of red cedar, the poles were badly cracked and had extremely rough surfaces. Merrill had built scaffolds around the poles, chiseled out and replaced broken and decayed pieces, and applied two coats of paint. Other work undertaken included placing benches at "Selected sightly spots with grandure [sic] as Indian River, the harbor, the islands, the ocean, Mt. Edgecumbe, chain of other beauty spots." Dead limbs and small trees had been removed. Accumulated dead moss, spruce needles, and cones had been cleaned up. B. Hirst (painter), W.A. Alcorn (painter), T. Berkland (teamster), Peter Kastromentinoff (carpenter and painter), H.M. Woodruff (carpenter and woodsman), and J.H. Gilpatrick (expert painter) had worked with Merrill from May 14 to June 30, 1919. The billed project cost was \$688.46.¹³³

Merrill's next association with the park came in the spring of 1920 when he advised Riggs that the monument bridge across Indian River should either be repaired or closed to visitors. Although Riggs corresponded with the National Park Service about the \$450 needed to repair the bridge, nothing seems to have been done.¹³⁴ The park service still assumed that Merrill was interested in the

132. Mather, Stephen T., no date, to Thomas C. Riggs Jr., in RG 79 Selected Documents.

133. Merrill, E.W., July 5, 1919, to National Park Service, in RG 79, Selected Documents.

134. Merrill, E.W., May 20, 1920, to Thomas C. Riggs Jr.; Riggs, Thomas C. Jr., July 14, 1920, telegram to Stephen T. Mather, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

custodian's position. Arno B. Cammerer, a member of Mather's staff, requested that he "kindly execute" the papers sent on August 30, 1918, by Riggs, so "that your entrance on duty under your appointment of August 12, 1918 as custodian of the monument may be noted."¹³⁵

Administration in the 1920s

Cammerer would play a significant role in the history of Sitka National Monument during the coming years. Mather brought him into the National Park Service in 1920, since both he and Albright recognized Cammerer's abilities as an administrator. According to Albright, the new recruit had been in federal service since 1904. He had worked his way up from Treasury Department clerk to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, then had become Assistant Secretary to the national Commission of Fine Arts.¹³⁶ After serving in a variety of capacities in the National Park Service, he became its director in 1933. Perhaps because of his background, or perhaps because of Mather's and Albright's focus on the large western parks, Cammerer's name appeared frequently on correspondence related to Sitka.

Another person whose interest was important to the Sitka monument also appeared on the scene in 1920.

U.S. Army Col. James G. Steese became chairman of the Alaska Road Commission at the end of World War I. Steese was a 1907 West Point graduate. After serving in Panama during the canal construction, he taught at West Point, Fort Riley, and Fort Leavenworth. During World War I he rose to the rank of brigadier general in the Corps of Engineers and subsequently received a Congressional Distinguished Service medal for his war work. After the war, reverting to colonel in the shrinking army, he was

135. Cammerer, Arno B., September 14, 1920, to E.W. Merrill, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

136. Albright, Horace M., *The Birth of the National Park Service* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Howe Brothers, 1985): 93.

appointed to the general staff and then as President of the Alaska Road Commission in July 1920. Later in life, Steese became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of England.¹³⁷

A man of many interests, Steese's support for the Sitka park often seemed to be greater than that of National Park Service officials.

In March of 1924 Steese wrote to Mather with a proposal that set the course of Sitka National Monument administration for the next two decades. In his letter, Steese outlined previous work accomplished by the road commission at Sitka, Katmai, and Mount McKinley. In the summer of 1920 the commission had repaired the footbridge across Indian River at Sitka and strengthened the bulkheads along the river's bank. More than \$1,000 in road commission funds had been spent on this work, together with \$200 furnished by the National Park Service through the Alaska governor's office. Steese closed his letter with an invitation for suggestions relative to road work in connection with national parks in Alaska and a wish to work closely with the park service.¹³⁸ Steese's proposal led gradually to what would later be characterized as an "informal agreement" in which the Alaska Road Commission took over on-scene responsibility for Sitka National Monument administration. The relationship was probably furthered by the fact that Steese, like many other early territorial officials for Alaska, spent much of each winter in Washington attending to his agency's business.

The era of Alaska Road Commission administration began with a tripartite effort in which the National Park Service, the Territory of Alaska, and the road commission all provided small amounts of funding for work at Sitka.

In January of 1922 Steese wrote to the National Park Service to report that the past summer's work at Sitka had included putting up a new bridge outside the monument boundaries.

137. DeArmond and Atwood, 1977: 95; Naske, 1983: 325.

138. Steese, James G., March 24, 1921, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Prior to erection of this new structure, wheel traffic had crossed Indian River at a ford within the monument boundaries just below the footbridge. But, said Steese, the roads and paths in the monument were really foot paths. He was excluding wheel traffic from the part of the monument west of Indian River where the totem poles were located. The eastern part of the monument was "unimproved" except for the road commission's wagon road. It followed the line of the old army wagon wood road to Sawmill Bay.

Other 1921 work in the monument included \$500 for the continuing effort to prevent erosion of the Indian River bank. Of this amount, \$200 had been provided by the National Park Service and Steese had charged the balance off to road commission work to protect the west abutment of "our suspension bridge."¹³⁹

Steese's letter brought a reply from Cammerer. Prohibiting wheeled traffic in the monument met with National Park Service approval. He asked if Steese would put up "Wheel Traffic Prohibited" signs at the ford and where the old road entered the monument at Corner No. 2. Steese, who apparently was in Washington for this exchange of correspondence, replied the following day that the signs would be erected, "using your letter as authority."¹⁴⁰

Road commission willingness to share part of the burden at Sitka seems to have been acceptable to the park service. In September of 1922 Cammerer advised Steese that the service had \$150 available for work there. He asked if one of Steese's men could visit the park and report on what work needed to be done. Cammerer also noted that the service needed a custodian for Sitka. The pay was only \$12 per year, "but such appointments carry considerable prestige in other monuments." Could Steese recommend someone? Steese replied that the road commission had done some

139. Steese, James G., January 24, 1922, to Arno B. Cammerer, Assistant Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

140. Cammerer, Arno B., January 26, 1922, to James G. Steese; Steese, James G., January 27, 1922, to Arno B. Cammerer, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

minor work at the Sitka monument at its own expense during the 1922 field season. He recommended that the National Park Service make \$150 available for bridge repair in the spring of 1923 and that Peter Trierschiold, road commission foreman at Sitka, be appointed custodian for the monument.¹⁴¹

Trierschiold submitted a report on monument needs before the end of the year. The Indian River bulkhead needed to be raised above the suspension bridge and extended below Lovers Lane. The footpath on the left side of the river needed to be graded and graveled. It also needed several culverts. The 30-foot bridge was rotted. Some totem poles needed to be painted and others needed to be braced. The suspension bridge (apparently different from the "30-foot bridge") needed two coats of preservative. If money were available, two footpaths should be made through the park and a number of small benches should be erected. By early 1923, National Park Service officials were addressing Trierschiold as "Custodian, Sitka National Monument." His status was regularized by a June 1923 park service personnel action that defined his duties as "general supervision, care of totem poles, and control of traffic."¹⁴²

New administrators demonstrate interest

Sitka Wharf and Power Company finally, in 1930, relocated the powerline that had bothered Steese so much. Since the relocation was entirely outside monument boundaries--to the seaward--the park service had no grounds for objecting.¹⁴³

141. Steese, James G., telegram September 29, 1922, to Arno B. Cammerer, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

142. Trierschiold, Peter, December 12, 1922, to James G. Steese; Cammerer, Arno B., January 25, 1923, to Peter Trierschiold; Personnel Classification Board Form No. 1, June 9, 1923, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

143. Mather, Stephen T., November 18, 1930, to Malcolm Elliott, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

George A. Parks, serving his last term as territorial governor; John W. Troy, who followed Parks in 1933; and United States Forest Service officials took over Steese's active interest in the Sitka monument. The governors were the ones who wrote to Washington to seek additional funds for repairs necessitated by the wandering and occasionally flooding Indian River. Alaska Region foresters C.H. Flory, M.L. Merritt, and Wellman Holbrook not only suggested additional resources for the monument, as discussed below, but also communicated with Interior officials about the condition of the monument and its routine maintenance.¹⁴⁴

While the foresters' concern for the monument developed, the park service, temporarily known as the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, continued Peter Trierschiold as custodian. Trierschiold reached age 70 on September 3, 1933, but Ike P. Taylor, then head of the road commission, reported that he was in good condition. It was unlikely that anyone else would render equivalent service for the compensation of \$12 per year.¹⁴⁵

As the park service expanded in the mid-1930s with the infusion of depression-era relief funds, its bureaucracy grew and began to pay more attention to Sitka.

In August of 1936 Washington officials inquired about Trierschiold's reply to a memo on the handling and sale of milk in national monuments. They also noted that they had no reply to the "Survey of Highway Auto Camps." The next year, they asked

144. Parks, George A., January 13, 1933, to Stephen T. Mather; Cammerer, Arno B., February 6, 1934, to John W. Troy; Flory, C.H., Regional Forester, Alaska, January 27, 1931, to the Forester; Merritt, M.L., Acting Regional Forester, Alaska, December 4, 1933, to the Forester; Holbrook, Wellman, Acting Forester, Alaska, March 7, 1934, to M.L. Merritt, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

145. Maulding, J. Atwood, July 7, 1933, to Director, National Park Service; Taylor, Ike P., undated endorsement to Maulding letter, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

him to complete a personal history statement, including his first name and middle initial. But on July 9, 1937, Trierschiold died at age 74.¹⁴⁶ Trierschiold's death marked the beginning of a period in which the "informal agreement" instituted in 1922 gradually came to an end. Peter's son John had worked for his father in the monument for a number of years and Taylor recommended him for the custodian position.¹⁴⁷

John Trierschiold finished out the 1937 season as custodian at Sitka and worked through 1938. Then J.D. Coffman, Chief of Forestry for the National Park Service, visited Sitka. He reported on conditions there at the end of the 1938 visitor season. Coffman summarized the administrative situation at the monument and made a number of resource-related comments.

Administrative problems included the cows of Mrs. Burkhart, an adjacent property owner. The cows wandered into the area of Lovers Lane and the totems, requiring the custodian to frequently dung out that section of the monument. Toilet facilities were needed. Signs were marred by bullet holes. Trierschiold and a laborer, John G. Panamarkoff, kept the 18 totem poles in repair by painting and by replacing damaged and decaying parts. Replacement parts were carved by them, then bolted into place.

Trierschiold, Coffman said, was industrious and interested in the monument, but "he does not have the education and personality that ordinarily characterize an administrative representative of the National Park Service." He recommended that Sitka needed a full-time, qualified, custodian.

146. Jennings, R.O., Acting Associate Director, National Park Service, August 7, 1936, to Peter Trierschiold; Holmes, R.W., Chief Clerk, National Park Service, January 25, 1937, to Peter Trierschiold; Taylor, Ike P., July 14, 1937, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

147. Taylor, July 14, 1937, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Coffman concluded that "If the Sitka National Monument is to be retained in the national park and monument system it should receive the official attention, administration, and maintenance compatible with that system; otherwise it should be turned over to some other agency...."¹⁴⁸

The park service proposes a full-time custodian for Sitka

These recommendations resulted in a reassessment of the situation at Sitka. It was still possible to request funds for a full-time custodian at Sitka in the fiscal year 1940 budget. Coffman's report also triggered a recommendation that the Branch of Plans and Design should develop a master plan for Sitka as soon as practicable.¹⁴⁹

By November of 1938 the Bureau of the Budget knew that the park service wanted a full-time custodian at Sitka. The estimated cost was \$2,360. That amount needed to be added to the National Park Service estimate of \$450,775 for national monuments administration in fiscal year 1940. That fiscal year would begin on July 1, 1939.¹⁵⁰ The appropriation passed, and on August 30, 1939, the park service announced the availability of a Ranger-Custodian position at Sitka.

The new Ranger-Custodian would be responsible for patrolling the monument area, keeping records and compiling all periodic and special reports, and handling visitor contact and educational

148. Coffman, J.D., "Observations relative to Sitka National Monument," September 20, 1938, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

149. Tolson, Hillory A., Acting Associate Director, October 25, 1938, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

150. Acting Director, National Park Service, October 28, 1938, to E.K. Burlew, First Assistant Secretary of the Interior and Budget Officer; Burlew, E.K., November 3, 1938, to Mr. Demaray; Burlew, E.K., November 9, 1938, to Daniel K. Bell, Acting Director, Bureau of the Budget, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

work.¹⁵¹ The National Park Service notified the Alaska Road Commission that when the position was filled, Trierschiold would be terminated.¹⁵²

The Alaska Road Commission learned that a ranger-custodian had been appointed when Taylor read about the appointment in the Juneau Alaska Daily Empire of January 23, 1940. Miffed, Ike Taylor forwarded the clipping to Washington. From it, he had learned that on January 23 Ben C. Miller, former District Ranger at Glacier National Park, had passed through Juneau to take up duties at Sitka. Although the park service later apologized to Taylor, it had unceremoniously ended the "informal agreement" between the National Park Service and the Alaska Road Commission for administration of Sitka National Monument.¹⁵³

Resource Issues

Resource management problems

While attempting to find an on-site manager, the National Park Service also began to deal with management problems in Sitka. Late in 1918, Alaska's Delegate to Congress Charles A. Sulzer forwarded a claim from Sitkan Charles A. Haley regarding alienation of his property by creation of the monument. Haley's property, on the east bank of Indian River, lay outside the monument boundaries and the Park Service rejected his claim.¹⁵⁴

151. Holmes, R.M., Assistant Personnel Officer, National Park Service, August 30, 1939, to Acting Regional Director, Region IV, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

152. Jennings, R.O., Acting Chief of Operations, National Park Service, Septemebr 16, 1939, to Ike P. Taylor, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

153. Taylor, Ike P., January 25, 1940, to National Park Service, in RG 79, Selected Documents.

154. Mather, Stephen T., Director, National Park Service, January 14, 1919, to Hon. Charles A. Sulzer, Delegate from Alaska, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Haley's unauthorized occupancy of the land in Tongass National Forest had been noted earlier, in 1910, when the Secretary of Agriculture forwarded the Arctic Brotherhood's petition for monument status to the Secretary of the Interior. In that correspondence, the agriculture secretary stated that the Nicholas Haley family reportedly had been squatting on the land since June 1, 1882, and that Nicholas Haley had filed a claim for it on February 19, 1883.¹⁵⁵

It was soon after this that a perennial problem began to be documented in records about the monument. Riggs telegraphed Mather on September 30, 1919, to ask for \$200 to reinforce bulkheads along Indian River. The bulkheads were needed to prevent the river from further eroding its banks.¹⁵⁶

Correspondence about repairs to the monument continued through 1920. In May, Merrill advised the governor that the bridge across Indian River had to be repaired or closed. Riggs telegraphed Mather about the dilemma in July, estimating that \$450 was needed for the required work. Nothing happened until October, when Arno B. Cammerer, acting for Mather, let Riggs know that \$200 had been authorized for reinforcement.¹⁵⁷

Correspondence over the next few years between Trierschield, Steese, and National Park Service officials -- primarily Cammerer -- documents their efforts to maintain and improve the Sitka monument. Money trickled from the park service to the Alaska Road Commission, from the road commission's own coffers, and from

155. Secretary of Agriculture, March 5, 1910, to the Secretary of the Interior, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

156. Riggs, Thomas C., Jr., September 30, 1919, to Stephen Mather, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

157. Merrill, E.W., May 29, 1920, to Governor Thomas Riggs; Riggs, Thomas, telegram, July 14, 1920, to Stephen T. Mather, Director, National Park Service; Cammerer, Arno B., Acting Director, National Park Service, telegram October 1, 1920, to Governor Thomas Riggs, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

the Territory of Alaska. Generally, road commission and territorial funds equaled or exceeded park service allotments to Sitka.

A powerline running across the seaward boundary of the park was among the first management issues dealt with by the new management team. Cammerer said that the powerline should be removed. According to Cammerer, "It was the purpose of those who laid out this road [Lovers Lane] to accord the visitors the benefit of the fine views of Sitka Bay...." He believed that the powerline seriously interfered with the seaward outlook from the monument. Although the Federal Power Commission at first agreed to be governed by Cammerer's recommendation, Mather subsequently overruled his assistant. He concluded that if the powerline were put entirely in Sitka Bay the obstruction of the seaward view would be worse than the existing situation. If it were put through heavy timber it would be even more of an eyesore. The park service director reached an agreement with the Federal Power Commission that the line could remain in place, if the power company agreed to any later changes deemed necessary by the service.¹⁵⁸

Prohibition of wheeled vehicles in the park also became an issue. C.F.M. Cole, editor of the Sitka newspaper, and Eiler Hansen, secretary of the Sitka Commercial Club, visited the road commission offices to complain. According to Hansen, the order embarrassed the people of Sitka. When the late President Warren G. Harding and Mrs. Harding had visited the park it had been impossible to take them through it in a car without technically violating the order. Cole, who was "much wrought up," claimed that the prohibition hurt Sitka's tourist industry. Visitors refused to disembark from visiting ships unless they could ride in jitneys through the monument. He had a two-part solution. Replace the footbridge in the monument with a vehicle bridge and put a loop road through the park. Cole said that the City of Sitka would be willing to put up funds for road maintenance.¹⁵⁹

158. Cammerer, Arno B., September 11 and 17, 1923, to Executive Secretary, Federal Power Commission; Merrill, O.C., Executive Secretary, Federal Power Commission, September 18, 1923, to Director, National Park Service; Mather, Stephen T., February 24, 1924, to Arno B. Cammerer, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

When a memorandum recounting the Sitkans' woes found its way to Mather, he dismissed the idea of wheeled traffic in the monument. If the monument were opened to wheeled traffic, it would have to be accessible to all except heavy commercial vehicles. There was, in any case, no money for the increased expenses that would be incurred. Vandalism would be less if vehicles continued to be excluded. Finally, without vehicle traffic the area would remain more scenically attractive for the traveling public.¹⁶⁰

Mather's comments probably pleased Steese. In relaying the park service decision to the Sitka Commercial Club, Steese said "I am deeply interested in the Sitka National Monument, as I consider it the most beautiful point in all Alaska." The road commission president also pointed out that the monument was only a couple of hundred yards wide. Tourists could leave their vehicles at the west entrance and rejoin them where the highway skirted the boundary on the east side of Indian River.¹⁶¹ Steese's decision to exclude wheeled vehicles from the monument, endorsed by Mather, had far-reaching effects. Without it, the character, esthetics, setting, and general development of Sitka National Monument would have been far different.

Steese soon reinforced his efforts to maintain "the most beautiful spot in all Alaska" with a ban on hunting and firearms in the monument. After a hunter was apprehended shooting tame deer and other wildlife within the boundaries, Steese had signs posted forbidding firearms in the monument. Once the signs were up, Steese telegraphed Washington to find out what authority the Secretary of the Interior had to control the issue. A prompt

159. Hansen, Eiler, November 22, 1923, to James G. Steese; Agnew, P.A. (Alaska Road Commission), November 28, 1923, to James G. Steese, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

160. Mather, Stephen T., December 18, 1923, to James G. Steese, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

161. Steese, James G., December 27, 1923, to Eiler Hansen, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

reply advised that the secretary had in fact, under 1921 regulations, prohibited hunting in national monuments. Violators should be taken to the nearest United States Commissioner for a hearing.¹⁶²

Another resource issue arose briefly in 1925 when Frank L. Kuhn, an attorney, wrote to Mather on behalf of descendants of Nicholas Haley. They asserted that a road that Haley built about 1881 lay within monument boundaries. The government should compensate them for the loss of this improvement. Attached affidavits described road construction and other improvements on the property Haley had claimed. Cammerer, writing for Mather, dismissed the case of Haley's descendants as being without merit. General Land Office records did not show that Haley had perfected his claim; therefore the descendants had no basis for a claim against the government.¹⁶³

The powerline still nagged at Steese's vision of the monument. In May of 1925 he sent six photographs of the "unsightly" power line to Washington. In July he submitted the first of several annual reports to the National Park Service. Afterward, he queried Cammerer "Is there anything further we can do?" Photographs attached to the annual report brought the unsightly powerline to mind. In response, Cammerer summarized the accommodation reached with the power company.¹⁶⁴

The 1925 annual report also gave Steese an opportunity to recapitulate Alaska Road Commission accomplishments in maintaining Sitka National Monument since 1922. Since the informal agreement of April 1, 1922, authorizing that maintenance, a com-

162. Steese, James G., telegram June 5, 1924, to Director, National Park Service; Finney [no first name given], telegram June 6, 1924, to James G. Steese, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

163. Kuhn, Frank L., May 26, 1925, to Stephen T. Makler [sic]; Cammerer, Arno B., June 9, 1925, to Frank L. Kuhn, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

164. Steese, James G., May 1, 1925, to Arno B. Cammerer; Steese, James G., July 10, 1925, to Arno B. Cammerer; Cammerer, Arno B., July 25, 1925, to James G. Steese, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

bination of National Park Service, Road Commission, and Territory of Alaska funds had been spent on the monument. The park service had contributed \$342.37, the road commission \$410.11, and the territory \$350. Steese detailed the work that had been accomplished since 1922. Custodian Trierschield's work included not only routine maintenance, but construction of

two footpaths in the monument, erection of a totem pole that had lain in three pieces for the past three years, and erection of an ornamental gateway consisting of two totem poles and two heavy concrete pillars connected by a heavy chain.¹⁶⁵

Trierschield also kept busy counting and recounting the totem poles. In 1924 Cammerer asked how many there actually were. He had encountered references to 16 and also to 18. The Sitka custodian replied on August 19, 1924, "I have checked. There are 18 totem poles in the monument."¹⁶⁶ When Cammerer asked the same question in the fall of 1925, Trierschield replied -- in February of 1926 -- that there were 16 poles.¹⁶⁷

Blockhouse becomes monument resource and erosion is checked

Not long after Trierschield's February totem pole count, Mather made a decision about Sitka National Monument resources that later caused his service a great deal of trouble. John Panamarkoff, secretary of the Sitka Commercial Club, wrote to say that citizens of Sitka wished to donate a replica of a Russian blockhouse to the park. The Alaska Historical Association and the Territorial Museum supported the proposal, as did Steese and

165. Steese, James G., "Annual Report, Sitka National Monument, fiscal year 1925," July 10, 1925, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

166. Cammerer, Arno B., July 21, 1924, to Peter Trierschield; Trierschield, Peter, August 19, 1924, to Arno B. Cammerer; in RG 79 Selected Documents.

167. Cammerer, Arno B., November 7, 1925, to Peter Trierschield; Trierschield, Peter, February 6, 1926, to Arno B. Cammerer, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Territorial Governor George A. Parks. The Alaska Road Commission would supervise the project. Mather replied that "I give my approval to this proposal."¹⁶⁸

The Department of the Interior press release announcing the blockhouse reconstruction incorporated the first National Park Service statement concerning an interpretive theme for Sitka National Monument. The Battle of Sitka had paved the way for Russian supremacy in Alaska. "Had Russian supremacy failed early in the nineteenth century England's effort to acquire the Territory would have been successful."¹⁶⁹

Nineteen-hundred and twenty-six was otherwise a quiet year, but early in 1927 Alaska's Delegate to Congress Donald Alexander (Dan) Sutherland notified Mather that Indian River was undermining the witch tree at Sitka. Mather left the matter to Cammerer. He in turn corresponded with Steese. The colonel already had the matter in hand, having visited Sitka in December of 1926 to investigate. Temporary protection costing \$100 had been instituted then. Steese subsequently arranged for the stream to be cleared of obstructions above the tree's location, reconstruction of 100 feet of road, and placing of a bulwark along the bank at the tree's location. His telegram confidently advised Cammerer, "Your share \$250."¹⁷⁰

Steese also moved ahead with monument development. He often advised the park service after the fact about what he regarded as minor improvements and only sought Washington's approval for major undertakings. In addition to a recitation of maintenance

168. Panamarkoff, John, February 26, 1926, to U.S. Park Service and Alaska Road Commission; Steese, James G., March 17, 1926, to Arno B. Cammerer; Mather, Stephen T., April 14, to James G. Steese, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

169. Department of the Interior, May 11, 1926, Memorandum for the Press, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

170. Mather, Stephen T., March 8, 1927, to Mr. Demaray; Cammerer, Arno B., March 24, 1927, to James G. Steese; Steese, James G., telegram April 6, 1927, to Arno B. Cammerer, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

work and expenditures in his 1927 annual report, Steese noted that in the coming summer he planned to construct a new path following the boundary from the west entrance around the west and northeast sides. This would allow the entire monument boundary to be patrolled.

The July 1927 annual report also advised that the blockhouse replica had been thrown up, using heavy cedar logs and hardware from the original Blockhouse No. 2 (Blockhouse D).¹⁷¹ A Sitka Commercial Club drive raised the \$2,500 cost of blockhouse reconstruction, with the Alaska Steamship Company being the largest contributor. Titus Demidoff and W.R. Hanlon of Sitka built the replica, using Blockhouse D as a model. Blockhouse D had been a point, toward Swan Lake, on the wall separating the Russian and Native settlements at Sitka. The United States Observatory crew at Sitka demolished the original blockhouse in 1921 because its metal affected their instruments.¹⁷²

Mather's authorization for construction of the replica had come in April of 1926, and by April of 1927 Steese was forwarding photographs of the completed structure to Washington. The photographs elicited a response from A.E. Demaray, acting assistant director of the service, that "it [the blockhouse] was certainly well done."¹⁷³

171. Steese, James G., "Annual Report, Sitka National Monument, fiscal year 1927," July 8, 1927, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

172. Spude, Robert L., Regional Historian, Alaska Region, National Park Service, undated, to Chief, Division of Cultural Resources, Alaska Region, National Park Service, in files of the Alaska Regional Office, National Park Service.

173. Demaray, A.E., April 1, 1927, to James G. Steese, in files of Sitka National Historical Park.

Steese proposes additional resources

At the end of the 1927 season, Steese proposed to Mather that abandoned totem poles at the site of the former Native village of Howkan be relocated to the Sitka National Monument.¹⁷⁴ A Haida community on the northwest coast of Long Island in the Alexander Archipelago, Howkan had gradually lost its population to the village of Kaigani and thence to Hydaburg. Howkan's post office, established in 1882, was transferred to Hydaburg in 1917.¹⁷⁵

A flurry of correspondence ensued. It involved Steese, Mather, Parks, officials of the Bureau of Education, and the Smithsonian Institution. No government funds were available for a totem pole retrieval project. When an appeal for private funds failed the project was dropped. The exchange of letters, however, revealed that Mather had visited Alaska in 1927.¹⁷⁶ This event was otherwise unrecorded in records relating to Sitka National Monument.

Steese's retirement in 1928 marked the end of aggressive road commission interest in Sitka National Monument. Although his successors dutifully oversaw fulfilment of the "informal agreement" with the National Park Service, their correspondence and annual reports noted few attempts to enhance the monument's resources. Steese had been a fairly steady correspondent of Mather and Cammerer. Maj. Malcom Elliott, the succeeding road

174. Steese, James G., September 10, 1927, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

175. Orth, 1967): 434.

176. Mather, Stephen T., September 16, 1927, to James G. Steese; Steese, James G., September 23, 1927, to Stephen T. Mather; Hawkesworth, Charles, Alaska Division, Bureau of Education, November 1, 1927, to George A. Parks; "A.B.C." [Arno B. Cammerer], December 22, 1927, to A.E. Demaray; Demaray, A.E., February 24, 1928, to Dr. Frank B. Oastler; Parks, George A., February 25, 1928, to Stephen T. Mather; Oastler, Frank R., March 3, 1928, to A.E. Demaray, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

commission president, submitted brief annual reports and usually wrote only when additional money was needed for such things as emergency work on the Indian River bank.

New poles proposed for Sitka

The idea of adding resources to the monument came up once more in 1931. C.H. Flory, Alaska Regional Forester for the U.S. Forest Service, suggested retrieving abandoned totem poles from the defunct national monument at Old Kasaan and relocating them to Sitka.¹⁷⁷ This was an old idea, suggested as early as 1914 and considered again throughout the years. Old Kasaan, a former Haida village on Prince of Wales Island, had been abandoned in the 1890s. The village, with its name derived from an Indian word for "pretty town," was noted for its large number of ornate totem poles.¹⁷⁸

Old Kasaan had been designated a national monument in 1916 after much documentation by the Forest Service and a campaign by the Alaska Cruise Club. Much to everyone's consternation, the designation came after a 1915 fire had destroyed many of the surviving traditional houses and damaged the totem poles at the site. With many of its resources destroyed, the Prince of Wales Island site was never actively managed as a national monument. After Flory took over as District Forester in the South Tongass National Forest in 1919, he recommended moving some of the surviving poles to Sitka National Monument. Flory became Alaska Regional Forester before the executive reorganization of 1933 transferred administration of all national monuments to the National Park Service. In his new capacity, he again proposed relocating the Old Kasaan totems, as well as totems at other abandoned village sites within Tongass National Forest boundaries, to Sitka National Monument.¹⁷⁹

177. Flory, C.H., January 27, 1931, to the Forester, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

178. Orth, 1967: 720-721.

179. Rakestraw, 1981: 81, 98-99.

Flory resubmitted his proposal in 1934. M.L. Merritt of the Forest Service visited with National Park Service officials to follow up. He recommended retrieval of poles from Cat Island, Howkan, Old Kasaan, Klinkwan, Tongass Island, and Tuxekan; also salvage of enough good materials to reconstruct one traditional Native dwelling.¹⁸⁰ Like other such proposals for relocation of abandoned poles to Sitka, however, Flory's died without action.

Merrill plaque proposed

Sitka's citizens raised the idea of adding another resource to the monument in 1933. Elbridge Warren Merrill, the first albeit unofficial custodian of the monument, had become ill with influenza late in 1929. This turned into pneumonia which caused Merrill's death on October 27, 1929. The Sitka post of the American Legion raised money for a commemorative plaque which read:

Elbridge W. Merrill who dedicated his life and artistic attainments towards picturing the scenic beauties surrounding Sitka, Alaska, 1932.¹⁸¹

According to Eiler Hansen, who wrote as adjutant of the Sitka post to the National Park Service in 1933, the plaque was to be mounted on a natural granite monolith about 14 feet in height. Hansen asked permission to erect the plaque and its monolith within the monument.¹⁸²

The answer was no. Cammerer replied for Albright: "Mr. Merrill never entered on duty as custodian of the monument...I regret that it would be against the policy of the National Park Service to permit its erection within the Sitka National Monu-

180. Bryant, H.C., March 27, 1934, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

181. Chambers, 1977: 145.

182. Hansen, Eiler, March 31, 1933, to Horace M. Albright, Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

ment, even had he been officially connected with it." Cammerer asked if the memorial plaque could be placed on the approach to the monument outside its boundaries. It was placed outside the boundaries, where it remained into the 1980s, although it was removed temporarily during visitor center construction in 1964.¹⁸³

Territorial governor initiates totem pole project

Alaska's governor John W. Troy submitted the final proposal of the late 1930s that affected the resources of Sitka National Monument. He wrote to A.E. Demaray, a senior park service official, to suggest that it would be possible to get Civilian Conservation Corps help not only for landscaping at Sitka, but also to rehabilitate the totem poles there. Such work would need a National Park Service technical advisor. It could begin as early as October 1938.¹⁸⁴

Demaray responded that the park service was interested. It had "no general plan of development for Sitka National Monument," and would be glad to participate in the program. He regarded it as essential that a technician be employed to see that the work was properly planned and executed. Would the Alaska Civilian Conservation Corps (administered by the U.S. Forest Service) be able to employ the technician? If arrangements could be made, Demaray said, details would be worked out by the park service regional office at San Francisco.¹⁸⁵

Alaska Regional Forester B. Frank Heintzleman, who may have been behind Troy's original suggestion, followed it up in January of 1939. The Forest Service had obtained Works Progress Administration funding for totem pole restoration. He telegraphed

183. Cammerer, Arno B., April 10, 1933, to Eiler Hansen, in RG 79 Selected Documents; Chambers, 1977: 145.

184. Troy, John W., April 23, 1938, to A.E. Demaray, Acting Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

185. Demaray, A.E., May 13, 1938, to John W. Troy, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Demaray with the news that funds were available. If the park service could provide a qualified foreman, the project would begin.¹⁸⁶ Cammerer, now Director of the National Park Service, replied that no park service specialists were available to supervise the work. The service could pay for the services of an ethnologist or qualified graduate student in anthropology to give initial supervision. He suggested looking for such an expert at the University of Washington or the University of Alaska. If such scientific assistance were not available, the project could go ahead so long as before and after photographs were made and "record card file" documentation of work was created.¹⁸⁷

By April of 1939 Heintzleman was able to write to Cammerer that the totem pole work at Sitka was underway with WPA funds. He enclosed a photographic record of the poles in place on February 18. The Forest Service would submit a final report when the work was finished.¹⁸⁸

The Alaska Road Commission provided a dump truck for the project. The Forest Service Wood Products Laboratory sent advice on preservation treatment for the poles. John Maurstand served as foreman for the project, with George Benson as chief carver and nine Indian workers. The WPA funds were used up by March and the Forest Service continued work with Civilian Conservation Corps money. About half of the old poles, many of which were badly deteriorated, were duplicated. Duplicates and repaired poles were treated with Permatox B, painted with compounds carefully constructed to match original Native colors, and then treated again with Pentra-Seal.¹⁸⁹

186. Heintzleman, B. Frank, telegram January 27/28, 1939, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

187. Cammerer, Arno B., January 31, 1939, to B. Frank Heintzleman, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

188. Heintzleman, B. Frank, April 4, 1939, to National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

189. Heintzleman, B. Frank, December 21, 1939, to Dr. Carl P. Russell, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Most of the work at Sitka was completed by March of 1940. Although plans were discussed to build an open air shed in which to store originals of the duplicated poles, they were eventually shunted aside to uncovered storage on skids.¹⁹⁰

While the totem pole work was beginning, the park service began to reassess its treatment of Sitka National Monument's resources. Mount McKinley National Park Superintendent Frank T. Been and Earl A. Trager of the service's research and information bureau visited Sitka to look things over.¹⁹¹ Carl P. Russell, Supervisor of Research and Information for the service, suggested a special study of the area from "anthropological, historical and museum standpoints."¹⁹²

The totem pole rehabilitation and duplication project marked a significant resource policy decision for Sitka National Monument. When the park service agreed to plans to duplicate entire poles and then concluded that some of the originals were beyond preservation, it established a lasting ethic of resource management that extended through the next 30 years of Sitka National Monument administration.

190. Rakestraw, 1981: 100-101.

191. Been, Frank T., October 4, 1939, to Earl A. Trager; Trager, Earl A., December 21, 1939, to Frank T. Been, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

192. Russell, C.P., November 21, 1939, to R.F. Lee, in RG 79 Selected Documents.



Lovers Lane at Sitka National Monument, ca. 1935. (Photo courtesy of Anchorage Museum of History and Art, #B75.134.61)

Indian River, Sitka National Monument, date unknown. (Photo courtesy of Anchorage Museum of History and Art, #B75.134.62)





Totem walk at Sitka National Monument, ca. 1935. (Photo courtesy of Anchorage Museum of History and Art, #B80.50.30)

CHAPTER 4 SITKA NATIONAL MONUMENT, MIDDLE YEARS

Introduction

Overview

This section treats pre-World War II management of the park including preparation of the first master plan for Sitka National Monument, the Civilian Conservation Corps-U.S. Forest Service project to restore or recarve totems at the park and from other areas of Alaska, the war years when park service personnel had only limited access to areas of the park being used by the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy, and the post-war years through 1959.

The period included removal of inholders from the park boundaries, efforts to obtain government housing for park personnel, war-related gravel dredging operations at the mouth of Indian River, erection of coastal defense installations within the park, navy efforts at river bank erosion control, and an expanded mandate for park personnel to investigate and document historic properties throughout Sitka. The post-war period included debates over integrity of the park, when it was contemplated returning the area to local jurisdiction if the Indian fort site could not be located by archeological examination, and possible removal of the totem poles as exotic to the park location; archeological verification of the fort site in 1957; discussions regarding treatment of the fort site, battlefield, river, replication and rehabilitation of totem poles, and the vistas from the park; and renewed consideration of establishing Sitka as a "Williamsburg of the Sub Arctic."

Other events falling into this period include assumption of maintenance of Sitka National Cemetery by park personnel, permission for operation of an asphalt hot plant on the east site of Indian River and subsequent burial of asphalt within park boundaries and reforestation, renewed gravel dredging at the mouth of Indian River, and razing of the Russian blockhouse replica donated to the park in 1926.

The Context Changes

The Sitka that the National Park Service's first full-time custodian for Sitka National Monument came to in 1940 was changing rapidly. Army and navy personnel were returning to Sitka in numbers after an absence of decades. Their presence and purpose affected Sitka, the custodian's role in the town, and operations of Sitka National Monument.

Sitka had been the scene of an army garrison from 1867 to 1877. After the army pulled out, a series of naval installations were located in Sitka. Most of them were located on nearby Japonski Island, which had been established as a naval reservation by the 1890 presidential proclamation that had also reserved the public park on Indian River.

Sitka was an anchorage for a navy ship from 1879 to 1897, host to a Marine Barracks from 1884 to 1912, locus for a naval hospital from 1904 to 1912, and home community to a naval radio station from 1907 to the early 1930s. For most of these years there was a navy coal pile located on Japonski Island. In 1931, the radio station was decommissioned and its buildings and those of the coal pile were put in the custody of the commandant of the Puget Sound Navy Yard.

Eiler Hansen, who had earlier corresponded with the National Park Service about erecting the Merrill plaque, wrote a 1940 article in which he observed that "...the navy finally discovered that it had a coal shed which had never housed any coal, a wharf at which no ships ever docked, a radio station where no messages were sent or received and a complement of men who were being paid for raising gold fish and coots." Sitkans' efforts to re-establish the navy at Sitka were, according to Hansen, to no avail. But in 1935, in his words, "the Navy Board of Strategy...turned its myopic eye on Alaska." Adm. Ernest J. King came to investigate and visited Sitka. The result of the visit was, again according to Hansen, that the navy gouged out a hole for an airplane ramp on Japonski Island, converted the old coal shed there to a barracks, tied up converted destroyers at the dock on the island, and transformed a house into a bachelor officers' quarters. Although Hansen attributed the navy's renewed

attention to "some dark and devious process unknown to the mind of ordinary man," the decision to build at Sitka evolved from a rational process.¹⁹³

The Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 had prohibited the navy from building bases in Alaskan waters, but the navy conducted many aerial and ship surveys in those waters during the 1920s and 1930s. When Japan allowed the treaty to expire without renewal in 1936, the navy commissioned Rear Adm. Arthur J. Hepburn, a former Director of Naval Intelligence, to head a board which would study and report on its strategic needs. While the matter was under study, the navy designated its old reservation on Japonski Island as the Naval Seaplane Base, Sitka, in 1937, and the Fleet Air Base, Sitka, in February 1938. These early activities resulted in only a few navy personnel being relocated to Sitka, while half squadrons (six plane detachments) of patrol seaplanes rotated through Sitka every six months.

The Hepburn Board submitted its report in December 1938. Naval air, destroyer, and submarine bases were recommended for Sitka and also for Kodiak and Dutch Harbor. Congress appropriated some of the necessary money, contracts were let to Siems Drake Puget Sound, a joint venture construction company, and the first workers arrived in the fall of 1939 to begin building the new naval facilities.

In September of 1939, although only a few contractors' buildings were in place on Japonski Island, the navy designated its Sitka facility as a Naval Air Station. Ultimately 65 percent of 155 separate projects at a total cost of 25 million dollars would be completed in and around Sitka. The contractors brought in nearly 1,700 workers (more than the total of Sitka's estimated 1939 population), navy personnel arrived to staff the facility, and army troops assembled to guard the navy facilities. Scores of buildings were erected and more than 13 miles of road were laid out on Japonski Island and the smaller islets in Sitka Bay that the contractors connected by causeways.

193. Hansen, Eiler, "Japonski," in *Alaska Life*, July 1940: 10-11.

Sitka's population exploded, its resources such as Indian River were tapped to provide fresh water for the new residents of Japonski Island, prices for food and housing rose, and construction needs triggered a search for gravel sources.¹⁹⁴

Monument Administration, 1940-1965

Investigation Comments

A 1939 investigation of Sitka National Monument by Frank T. Been, Superintendent of Mount McKinley National Park, followed Coffman's 1938 report. Been's comments, based on an August 1939 visit to Sitka, were caustic. According to Been, "Sitka National Monument may be considered antithetical to National Park Service purposes and ideals."

Been noted that the totem poles were foreign to Sitka and recommended their removal to a place approximating their original location. Gravel dredging at the mouth of Indian River by Sitka's Service Transfer Company jarred the scene. It might continue indefinitely unless taken over by the navy. The blockhouse should either be removed or completed. If completed, the blockhouse should be explained to visitors. The Merrill plaque should be removed.

Future work at the monument should include improving the approach to the entrance, constructing toilet and possibly drinking water facilities, building rustic benches, clearing vistas, preparing an information pamphlet for the monument as a whole and signs for each totem pole, erecting a fence to keep cattle out of the grounds, and stabilizing the river bank. Been also recommended investigating the gravel removal, stabilizing the original totem poles and carving duplicates. He criticized past efforts to preserve the poles and commended the current joint Forest

194. Hanable, William S. and Vincent Ponko Jr., The Navy in Alaska, 1867 - 1941: an Historic Preservation Study (Anchorage: The Institute for Public History, 1983): 242-260; "Siems Drake Puget Sound - the story of Alaska's naval air bases in World War II," undated ms. (written for H.W. McCurdy, a principal of Siems Drake Puget Sound), in files of the Sitka Historical Society; Part 3, "Sitka."

Service-Civilian Conservation Corps totem pole project. Some results of past totem pole preservation efforts, according to Been, "have been almost hideous." Canvas had been tacked over decaying portions of poles and painted. All the poles had inserts that had been carved like replaced sections and fitted in to take the place of decayed wood.

Been also expressed concern over preservation of Sitka's historic scene. The scene was fast being despoiled by a salmon boom that had caused more than 1,500 trawlers to headquarter there over the past two years. The service should assist in preservation of Sitka's historical values in order to justify its standards and guardianship.¹⁹⁵

These recommendations were taken seriously in Washington. Col. John R. White, then acting assistant director of the service, noted in a memorandum on the subject "A good report. Apparently we should either abandon the Sitka Monument or embody it as an historic site and make something worthwhile of it." A few days later Demaray commented that he saw no reason to abandon Sitka National Monument. The emphasis at Sitka should be changed from "totem poles" to the historic aspects of the area. He also noted "but we have had no means to do anything and conditions drift along." The Director of the National Park Service took a more prosaic view: "What we need more than a dignified patrol ranger, is a laborer with sense who will work around the monument, cut the grass and weeds, and paint the poles." The Smithsonian Institution, asked to comment, was of the opinion that poles not appropriate to Sitka should be relocated to Old Kasaan National Monument. Moreover, there were sufficient data in the United States National Museum to reconstruct the more important buildings from Sitka's Russian period.¹⁹⁶

195. Been, Frank T., "Report on Inspection of Sitka National Monument," October 14, 1939, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

196. White, John R., October 31, 1939, memorandum; Demaray, A.E., November 1, 1939, memorandum; Cammerer, Arno B., November 7, 1939, memorandum; Wetmore, A., Assistant Secretary, The Smithsonian Institution, December 14, 1939, to the Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Sitka's First Trained Custodian

When Ben C. Miller arrived in Sitka in January of 1940 to take up duties as custodian of Sitka National Monument, he faced several challenges. The National Park Service was, for the first time, giving proper attention to Sitka. A totem pole rehabilitation and recarving project, using Forest Service advice and Civilian Conservation Corps workers, was underway. Master planning for the monument was required. Miller also needed to establish his role, and that of the park service personnel who would follow him, in Sitka. Sitka itself was changing dramatically.

Been wrote at the time that the position at Sitka would require more work than one person could do. It would involve totem pole restoration, stream flow control, construction of buildings, and improvement of the approach to the monument. He also recommended that the position be salaried at \$2,000 per year. This was the minimum that had been established for Mount McKinley rangers.¹⁹⁷

Although Been had proposed two candidates for the Sitka position, one a corralman from Mount McKinley and the other the CCC supervisor at Sitka, the position ultimately went to Miller, who also earned Been's recommendation. At the time he applied, Miller was "one of the best district rangers" at Glacier National Park in Montana. He had nine years' experience as a ranger and district ranger. The superintendent of Glacier National Park was reluctant to let him go, but Miller was looking for a duty station that had a high school for his two children.¹⁹⁸ Park service officials at Washington approved Miller's permanent change of station from Glacier National Park, where he had been a District

197. Been, Frank T., September 28, 1939, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

198. Miller, Ben C., September 16, 1939, to Superintendent, Glacier National Park; Libbey, D.S., Superintendent, Glacier National Park, September 22, 1939, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service; Been, Frank T., telegram, December 8, 1939, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Ranger, Grade 9, at an annual salary of \$2,100, to Sitka, where he would take the title of Custodian, at the same grade and salary.¹⁹⁹

While Miller's appointment was being settled, overall administration of the monument was being reviewed. When Been queried Washington as to whether or not he would be responsible for supervision and funds of Sitka National Monument, Demaray, Associate Director of the National Park Service, replied that administration of Sitka had been under the Alaska Road Commission. He did not deem it advisable to make a change unless there was a valid reason.²⁰⁰

Been's reply indicated that he was somewhat aggrieved. He replied that he had been instructed by Washington to select a custodian for Sitka and therefore inquired if he would have continuing responsibility, possibly as "Coordinating Superintendent." He had never thought of the Alaska Road Commission as having continuing responsibility for Sitka. The road commission had no construction in Southeast Alaska and for its assignment of Sitka and Old Kasaan national monuments had "resulted in an unwelcome responsibility." The fact that the road commission did not want the job was alone sufficient justification for relieving it of administration of Sitka National Monument. Been additionally suggested that those in Washington review the "Report of Investigation of Sitka National Monument" dated October 14, 1939. His rejoinder was effective. He soon received advice that he had responsibility for general administration of Sitka National Monument.²⁰¹

199. Atwood, Maulding J. (Mrs.), Director of Personnel, National Park Service, December 20, 1939, to Ben C. Miller, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

200. Been, Frank T., telegram, December 8, 1939, to Director, National Park Service; Demaray, A.E., Associate Director, National Park Service, December 15, 1939, to Frank T. Been, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

201. Been, Frank T., January 6, 1940, to Director, National Park Service; Cammerer, Arno B., Director, National Park Service, telegram, January 29, 1940, to Frank T. Been, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Adequate housing for Sitka's new custodian was among the first issues that Been addressed. Construction workers and military personnel flooding into Sitka were occupying all previous vacancies. What little housing that became available was exorbitant in price. Unfurnished houses rented for as much as \$50 per month. The service needed to look into transfer of buildings being vacated by the Coast and Geodetic Survey or new construction to house Miller and his family. Although park officials pursued the transfer and the Coast and Geodetic Survey was agreeable, military priorities prevailed and the army eventually took over the land and buildings.²⁰²

Initial National Monument Planning

The housing problem was one of several indications that the park service needed to plan for Sitka development. In March of 1940, Thomas C. Vint, the service's Chief of Planning, brought Director Cammerer up to date on the planning he had instructed Region IV headquarters in San Francisco to initiate for Sitka. The region had replied that the only available data was a map accompanying the proclamation that had established Sitka National Monument and Been's October 1939 "Report of Inspection of Sitka National Monument." J.D. Coffman, Chief of Forestry, Earl A. Trager, Chief Naturalist, and Ronald F. Lee, Supervisor of Historic Sites, all reviewed the available documentation.

Lee's comments were the most vital and addressed issues of long-term significance:

Since the totems at Sitka are without exception exotic [to the Sitka area], they can be located in the park in accordance with landscape principles or principles of good design....The replica of the old Russian blockhouse has no special historical value since it is not on the original blockhouse site.

202. Been, Frank T., telegram, January 30, 1940, to Director, National Park Service; White, J.R., Chief of Operations, National Park Service, January 30, 1940, to Commander O.W. Swainson, Coast and Geodetic Survey, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

There is no need to continue work on this replica; nor, on the other hand, should it be pulled down as someone has proposed. It is an interesting feature and may as well be retained as one of the features of the park.

Lee also noted that the service might employ authority granted by the Historic Sites Act of 1935 as a basis for cooperative agreements for preservation of Saint Michael's Cathedral and other old Russian or early American structures at Sitka.²⁰³

Vint summarized the comments of Coffman, Lee, and Trager in a memorandum that apparently constituted Sitka National Monument's first master plan. Logical projects for Sitka included a new entrance motif, replacing enameled signs with wood signs, replacing frame benches with benches of rustic design, continuing totem pole restoration, constructing toilet facilities, controlling Indian River erosion, and establishing a custodian's residence and garage, probably in Sitka proper.

Cammerer responded to the Sitka plan by noting that it showed 15 totem poles and there were actually 18. Two additional poles were at the entrance to the park and another was adjacent to Lovers Lane, just south of three poles in a clearing.²⁰⁴

Although Vint later noted that he signed a master plan for Sitka on August 30, 1940, and recommended it to the director, there is no documentary evidence that Sitka's first master plan ever evolved beyond the letter summarizing the recommendations of the various branch chiefs. Its recommendations were to be revived, the first time coming in 1946 when Miller again brought up the idea of constructing an information center at the entrance to the monument.²⁰⁵

203. Lee, Ronald F., February 29, 1940, to Thomas C. Vint, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

204. Cammerer, Arno B., March 27, 1940, to Thomas C. Vint, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

205. Vint, Thomas C., Chief of Planning, National Park Service, March 9, 1940 to Director, National Park Service; August 31, 1940, to Regional

Miller shapes custodian's duties

As the planning went on, Miller began to establish himself in Sitka and his control over Sitka National Monument. After his first full month, February 1940, on the job, he believed that the monument required an additional staff member who could devote his or her full time to researching totem poles and Alaska history.²⁰⁶ In March of 1940 he plunged into the complex negotiations for acquisition of private property on the park's boundary and recommended acquisitions near the park entrance.²⁰⁷ Miller also reported the first of many problems with gravel dredging at the mouth of Indian River. Although Miller felt that he had handled the matter badly because the structures for storing accumulated gravel were on park land, Been advised his superiors that Miller had done all that was possible in the circumstances.²⁰⁸

In April of 1940 Miller and Deputy U.S. Marshal Henry Bardht apprehended Sitkans Roy Corp and Eva Meinsenzhal for being drunk and disorderly in the monument. Corp and Meinsenzhal were sentenced to 30 days in jail.²⁰⁹

Director, Region IV, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents; "Values and objectives - a compendium of statements concerning areas in the National Park System," 1946, in File D-18/52 at Sitka National Historical Park.

206. Been, Frank T., March 27, 1940, to Ben C. Miller, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

207. Miller, Ben C., March 23, 1940, to Superintendent Been, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

208. Miller, Ben C., March 22, 1940, to Superintendent Been; Frank T. Been, April 4, 1940, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

209. Monthly Narrative Report for Sitka National Monument (hereafter MNR), April 2, 1940, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Miller also began delving into the history of the monument's resources. He soon felt expert enough to venture corrections for Merle Colby's A Guide to Alaska--last American frontier. Where Colby reported 16 totem poles, there were actually 18 and none were Tlingit poles. Colby was misinformed regarding the blockhouse replica. It contained no logs from any of the original blockhouses.²¹⁰

The new custodian's first few months at Sitka set the pattern for his administrative activities over the next few years, although his administrative duties decreased rather than increased. Miller was extremely active, documenting his monthly reports with photographs that remain of interest. In addition to pictures of monument resources such as the totem poles, discarded poles, the lyre tree, and newly-constructed toilets, he recorded activities such as a May 1941 Kiksadi picnic held "in honor of descendants of warriors killed in battle of 1802 at Old Sitka," women and children picnicking on the seashore, and sailors looking over the grounds.²¹¹

The annual report for Sitka National Monument for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1941, recorded that CCC workers had moved several trees from the shoulders of the monument road, erected a large rustic sign at the monument entrance, widened the monument road, and resurveyed the monument boundaries. Other projects had not been started because wages paid at the navy construction site limited CCC enrollees. A minor administrative problem was solved when the Bureau of Public Roads agreed to maintain the road in the monument for about \$100 annually. Tourist ships were already down to half the number that had visited Sitka in the previous year, and when the army and navy took over large portions of the monument after Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, visitation to the park dropped to nothing.²¹²

210. Colby, Merle, A Guide to Alaska--Last American Frontier (New York: 1939): 172-173; MNR, July 3, 1940 in RG 79 Selected Documents.

211. MNR, September 4, 1940, February 3, 1941, May 5, 1941, June 4, 1941, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

World War II

The army takeover came in late May of 1942. Reports of Japanese attacks on the Aleutian Islands, which did not actually occur until early June, prompted the military to pre-empt the monument on the west side of Indian River from the second cross footpath to the mouth of the river. Two pyramid tents were erected by the army, although two aircraft observation posts that had been established near the blockhouse just after Pearl Harbor were dismantled.²¹³

A very helpful source of labor for the monument disappeared on July 2, 1942, when the CCC program in Sitka terminated.²¹⁴ With much of the labor force on which the monument had depended for several years gone and part of the monument grounds closed, Miller turned outward, rather than becoming inactive. It was not always easy. His monthly report for November 1941 complained, in regard to a photo contest which drew no entrants, "This lack of cooperation and indifference is what I have had to deal with ever since I came here. Apparently one of the greatest obstacles to overcome is the changing of the opinion of the local residents regarding their indifference to tourists."²¹⁵

Miller persevered. He accepted an appointment to the local board of U.S. Civil Service Examiners. He also served as a master sergeant in the Alaska Territorial Guard, a state militia organized to substitute during the war years for the Alaska National Guard, which had been called to federal service in 1940. Miller additionally served on Sitka's local draft board, worked

212. Sitka National Monument annual report for fiscal year ending June 30, 1941; Russell, Carl P., Supervisor of Research and Interpretation, National Park Service, January 31, 1941, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

213. MNR, June 3, 1942, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

214. MNR, August 4, 1942, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

215. MNR, November 3, 1941, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

regularly at Sheldon Jackson Museum, and was active in many other community affairs. The Alaska Game Commission and the U.S. Forest Service, neither of which had representatives in Sitka, often called on Miller to accomplish tasks for them. These activities were only supplemental though, to his work in dealing with protection and enhancement of Sitka National Monument's resources.²¹⁶

An important administrative change occurred in 1943 when Miller received a note from Been saying that he was going into the army. Grant H. Pearson became acting superintendent of Mount McKinley National Park, but Miller was advised to report directly to Region IV rather than through Pearson. Thereafter both Sitka and Glacier Bay national monuments came under the general supervision of the Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service. This diverted some of Miller's attention to Glacier Bay and he began to perform winter patrols there. By 1943, when Region IV director Owen A. Tomlinson planned a visit to Sitka, he advised Miller that he was "Confident you will continue to give your two [emphasis added] areas the personal and intelligent attention you have given in the past."²¹⁷

This dilution of attention to Sitka was followed by a 1944 director's decision that further development at Sitka should be postponed. Archaeological, historical, and scientific values needed to be studied. Until those studies were completed, damage could be repaired but additional development would not begin. Future alternatives might include turning the area over to other agencies such as the City of Sitka or the Territory of Alaska.²¹⁸

216. Atwood, Maulding, J., December 5, 1941, to Paul E. Cole, Acting District Manager, 11th United States Civil Service District; Been, Frank T., September 4, 1942, "Field notes and interviews - inspection of Glacier Bay National Monument and Sitka National Monument, August 12 to September 14, 1942," in RG 79 Selected Documents.

217. Been, Frank T., February 2, 1943, to Ben C. Miller; Drury, Newton B., Director, National Park Service, Memorandum for the Director's Office and the Regional Directors, March 24, 1943; Tomlinson, O.A., March 30, 1943, to Custodian Miller, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

As the war wound down, Miller began to report more activity in the monument. Important visitors to the monument in January of 1944 included Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, commander of the Alaska Defense Command, actress Ingrid Bergman, and a party of USO entertainers.²¹⁹ About the same time, a problem was cleaned up when the Presbyterian Board of Missions deeded one of the small tracts of land at the monument entrance to the National Park Service. The .4056-acre tract had been donated by a private Native owner, Mrs. William Wells, to the board. This resolved negotiations that began in 1940.²²⁰

With the war over, Miller received the Selective Service System medal for his work on the local draft board. He also began to report more normal monument usage, although it still had a distinctly military flavor. In May of 1946, Sitka's third and fourth grades held their annual picnic in the monument, the cub scouts held a pack meeting there, and 52 soldiers passing through on a steamer came ashore to visit.²²¹

War's end brings a new custodian

Miller left Sitka National Monument about this time. A vacation trip east was followed by unplanned lengthy hospitalization in Vancouver, Washington. As a result, Grant H. Pearson, who had been the acting superintendent of Mount McKinley National Park, took up the Sitka post. Pearson arrived at Sitka after climbing Mount McKinley with the New England Museums Expedition. He

218. Drury, Newton B., Director, National Park Service, January 29, 1944, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

219. MNR, February 3, 1944, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

220. MNR, January 3, 1944; Miller, Ben C., March 23, 1940, to Superintendent Been, September 21, 1945, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

221. MNR, June 4, 1946, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

reported his arrival for duty on July 1, 1947, and noted that the monument was in good condition considering that it had been without a custodian "since last September."²²²

Pearson was a long-time Alaskan who had first come to the territory in 1925 when he worked for the Alaska Road Commission at Cordova. After moving to Fairbanks, where he worked in the gold mining industry, he was appointed as a park ranger at Mount McKinley National Park. This began a National Park Service career that took him in 1939 from McKinley to Yosemite National Park, where he remained until 1942 when he returned to McKinley. After serving as superintendent at Sitka and Glacier Bay national monuments from 1947 to 1949 he would return to McKinley as superintendent until his 1956 retirement. After retirement, Pearson was elected to the first Alaska State Legislature and subsequently served several terms in both the house and senate. While in the legislature he introduced bills that created a park and recreation program in state government.²²³

When Pearson was reassigned, Ben Miller returned to Sitka in 1947 as superintendent. He held the position until 1949 when relieved by Henry G. Schmidt. Miller, who died in 1953 soon after his reassignment from Sitka, is commemorated by Miller Peak in Glacier Bay National Monument. Schmidt, who had been at Sequoia National Park in California, would leave Sitka in 1953 for the superintendency at Big Bend National Park in Texas and then the Northeast regional directorship.

Abandonment alternative

Park service planners gave renewed attention to Sitka during the unexpected vacancy in the custodian's position. The often repeated suggestions that Sitka should be abandoned were set aside temporarily when a regional committee recommended its retention. The committee suggested that the decision to retain

222. MNR, August 1, 1947, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

223. DeArmond and Atwood, 1977: 77; MNR, March 10, 1959, in "Routine Reports."

or abandon Sitka National Monument should be postponed until such time as a study could be made of the City of Sitka as a whole to determine the historical values of the area.

Because of Sitka's position as the former capital of Russian Alaska, it is believed that an opportunity may present itself in the future, whereby a series of cooperative agreements may be made to preserve the historical values of that city under the terms of the National Historic Sites Act of 1935. If such is done, the present Sitka National Monument may well be one of the important units of the Sitka National Historic Sites.²²⁴

Sitka custodian takes up cemetery duties

A time-consuming chore was added to the Sitka custodian's administrative duties when the National Park Service agreed that its Sitka representative would supervise the national cemetery at Sitka. Army plans to abandon the cemetery had brought public protest. Perhaps because of this, the army turned to the National Park Service for help. In November of 1948, the chief of the army's Memorial Division asked if the service's caretaker at Sitka could take over cemetery maintenance. Army officials in Alaska had advised that the caretaker of the "Totem Pole National Park" was willing to help if National Park Service headquarters agreed.²²⁵

224. Quoted as "Regional Committee's Report" in Tomlinson, O.A., Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service, January 5, 1949, to Director, National Park Service.

225. Miller, Ben C., April 25, 1945, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service; Gagne, H.F., Quartermaster Corps, Memorial Division, Office of the Quartermaster General, U.S. Army, November 9, 1948, to Director, National Park Service; Oatley, C.W., Headquarters U.S. Army Alaska, October 8, 1948, to Office of the Quartermaster General, U.S. Army, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

The burial ground consisted of 1.19 acres on which there were 276 internments. Five burials had been made in fiscal year 1948. There were about 100 burial sites remaining in the cemetery. The army wanted someone to raise and lower the flag flying over the cemetery, maintain the grounds, and arrange for opening and closing of graves. The Director of the National Park Service replied that the custodian at Sitka could maintain the cemetery on a reimbursable basis covering costs plus 10% overhead.²²⁶ Miller reported to regional officials that he had taken over the cemetery on June 1, 1949. In return, the park service received the use of an army jeep and 500 gallons of gasoline left at Sitka.²²⁷ This responsibility lasted until 1956.²²⁸

Alaska Field Committee recommends Sitka development

Administrative activities for Sitka National Monument for the first segment of its middle years, 1940 to 1950, concluded with positive recommendations for its future. The Alaska Field Committee, a federal interagency task force looking at Department of the Interior development in the territory, suggested construction of a new museum/headquarters building. The structure should include the superintendent's office, public comfort stations, work and store rooms, and museum rooms "for display of the Sheldon Jackson Collection of artifacts to be donated to the National Park Service." Other work recommended for Sitka included a superintendent's residence and utility building and erosion control work on Indian River.²²⁹

226. Drury, Newton B., December 6, 1948, to The Comptroller General, Department of the Army, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

227. Drury, Newton B., Director, National Park Service, June 16, 1949, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service; MNR, July 5, 1949, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

228. Ashby, Joe, personal communication, 1987.

229. Alaska Field Committee, "A six year integrated program for the Department of the Interior in Alaska, 1950-1955," July 1949, in National Park Service's Harper's Ferry Center, Alaska Collection, Box 1.

The first step toward implementing these recommendations was taken when Miller once again had to raise the issue of a housing problem. By April of 1949 there was again a housing crunch at Sitka. Also again, Miller suggested that the National Park Service obtain the Coast and Geodetic Survey property he had been coveting in 1940. This met with service approval, and the Bureau of Land Management transferred the 1.25 acre tract to the National Park Service.²³⁰

Second segment of middle years

The second segment, 1950 to 1965, of Sitka National Monument's middle years began quietly. Visitation to the monument was down. Steamers calling at Sitka arrived and departed in the night and most tourists did not have a chance to see the Indian River park.²³¹ This situation was aggravated in 1954 when Alaska Steamship ended passenger service to Alaska. The most exciting developments were in looks to the future. Planning for the monument's future continued, while perennial problems such as erosion control and totem pole preservation continued.

Planning continues

A 1953 review of the situation at Sitka adopted and expanded the 1949 recommendations of the Alaska Field Committee. The review again called for a headquarters building and public comfort stations in the monument and for Indian River erosion control. It went beyond the 1949 plan to suggest a picnic area and more interpretive markers. Also beyond the 1949 plan was an initiative that proposed Sitka as the National Park Service's center for interpreting all Indian and Russian history and archeology in Southeast Alaska. To do this, the service needed to build a museum at and promote Sitka.²³²

230. Miller, Ben C., April 5, 1949, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service; Tomlinson, O.A., May 9, 1949, to Superintendent, Sitka; Director, Bureau of Land Management, January 15, 1949, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

231. MNR, June 4, 1949, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

Plans for "Mission 66," a service-wide effort to renew the nation's national parks and monuments in time for celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service, followed the 1953 recommendations for Sitka. The Mission 66 program endorsed most of the 1953 plans and defined the monument. "Sitka National Monument commemorates the bravery and culture of Alaska's Indians. Visitors could "enjoy the rare experience of reaching the heart of an unspoiled stand of towering Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock with dense undergrowth...."²³³

The final planning effort of the 1950s, a 1959 master plan, reversed a de-emphasis on Russian activities at Sitka. Regional officials commented that the plan changed the approved description of values. "It was only a short time ago that upon direction of the Washington office, we rewrote the Sitka folder and prepared the Mission 66 prospectus to minimize the Russian story." The new plan gave principal emphasis to the Battle of 1804 and subsequent Russian-American history of Alaska rather than to the Indian culture of Alaska and the effects of European contact on it. The totem poles were treated as only incidental to area interpretation.²³⁴

232. Stanton, William J., Alaska Recreation Survey - Part One - Volume One - Economic Aspects of Recreation in Alaska (National Park Service, 1953): 106.

233. "Mission 66 prospectus brief -- Sitka and Glacier Bay national monuments" (National Park Service, April 20, 1956), found in "Master plan narrative -- Sitka," volumes I and III, 1964.

234. "Master plan narrative for Sitka National Monument," with transmittal letter from Mitchell, L.J., Superintendent, Sitka and Glacier Bay National Monuments, October 26, 1959, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service; Merriam, Lawrence C., Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service, December 11, 1959, to Superintendent, Sitka and Glacier Bay, in File D-18/52 at Sitka National Historical Park.

Boundaries and vistas

While the planning was underway, adjustments were made to the western park boundaries as the private properties at the entrance were acquired.²³⁵

A major improvement to the seaward vista from the park occurred in 1954, when Superintendent Henry G. Schmidt was able to advise regional officials that the Sitka Utilities Board had funded relocation of the transmission lines along the beach. New lines would parallel the Sawmill Creek Road.²³⁶

Superintendent's position moves to Juneau

As the 1950s had ended, the superintendent's position was relocated to Juneau, a situation that would remain in effect until the early 1970s. Various reasons have been cited for this arrangement. The move may have been made because one of the superintendents liked the political hustle-bustle of the territorial capital.²³⁷ Or, the move may have been made simply because changing transportation patterns made Glacier Bay and Sitka jointly more accessible from Juneau. A park historian was appointed to be in charge at Sitka. Seasonal historians assisted there. A park ranger staffed Glacier Bay.

235. Truman, Harry S., "A proclamation (redefining the boundaries of the Sitka National Monument, Alaska,)" February 25, 1952, Presidential Proclamation No. 2965 (66 Stat c.22); "Alternatives study...", May 1968.

236. Maier, Hebert, Acting Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service, October 25, 1954, to Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, National Park Service, in File D-18/52 at Sitka National Historical Park.

237. Hall, George A., personal communication, 1986.

Visitation and use

The park historian at Sitka, George A. Hall, a graduate of Drake University, had worked with the Public Health Service on Japanski Island. In 1957 he transferred to Sitka National Monument, where he would remain until 1963. After leaving Sitka, he would go on to serve as assistant chief of the park service's National Memorials Branch in the National Capital Region in Washington, D.C. He later returned to Alaska as superintendent of Mount McKinley National Park and Katmai National Monument.²³⁸

Hall observed that 1958 was the first year in which annual visitation to the monument had reached the peak attained before passenger steamer service to Sitka was ended in 1954. He attributed this to changing transportation patterns, with more travelers going by air, to the transient population brought to Sitka as a result of pulp mill construction, and to an increasing habit of Sitka families to use the monument for recreational purposes. Tourists arrived between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and transient workers used the park in the evenings. Special events also increased park usage, with 1959 seeing Sitka conventions for the Alaska Lions Club, Business and Professional Women, Protestant Chaplains of Alaska, and the Southeastern Camporee of the Boy Scouts of America. Most conventioners visited the monument, and the scouts camped on the grounds.²³⁹

Noteworthy events in this period included the June 1958 appearance of Time and Life magazine staffers to photograph totem poles for a forthcoming article and Lowell Thomas' visit to the monument to film a portion of his "High Adventure" television program.²⁴⁰

238. Hall, George A., personal communication, 1986.

239. MNR, June 3, 1958, January 3, 1959, March 30, 1959, July 2, 1959; in File "Routine Reports," at Sitka National Historical Park (hereafter "Routine Reports").

240. MNR, June 3, 1958, July 5, 1958, in "Routine Reports."

The end of the 1950s also saw the Sitka Historical Society, established in 1955, hold a commemorative tea on April 5, 1959, to celebrate the establishment of Sitka National Monument.²⁴¹ Hall served as president of the historical society, a reflection of strong park service involvement in community affairs. This continued the tradition begun by Ben C. Miller in the 1940s. Hall was also active on the Sitka Historic Sites Restoration Committee, which was working on restoration of Saint Michael's Cathedral.²⁴²

A blight on the monument authorized by special use permit was removed when the asphalt hot plant of the Morrison-Knudsen Company, installed on the east bank of Indian River to provide material for the paving of Sitka's streets, was finally removed. Surplus asphalt and debris from the plant were buried on the site, which was later reforested.²⁴³

The stage was set for final acquisition of the last private property on the east side of the road at the park entrance when Esther Littlefield agreed to sell her house, which was one of the three sitting on the hill at the entrance to the park. The service, however, did not take an option to purchase the property until March of 1963.²⁴⁴

Planning for the monument continued as the draft of chapter 1 of volume 1 of a new master plan for Sitka went to the regional office for review and comment in April of 1960. The plans at this time incorporated Mission 66 recommendations for a visitor center. Concurrent with master planning, park personnel initiated detailed exhibit planning and drew upon the assistance of the service's Western Regional Office and Western Museum Laboratory.²⁴⁵

241. MNR, May 15, 1959, in "Routine Reports."

242. Hall, George A., personal communication, 1986.

243. MNR, July 8, 1958, in "Routine Reports;" Hall, George A., personal communication, 1986.

244. MNR, March 3, 1959; April 11, 1963 in "Routine Reports."

Park personnel changes

Hall, who had been the first person in charge of Sitka National Monument to be classified as an historian, left in 1963 for an assignment in Washington, D.C. His initial replacement, Charles W. Warner, reported for duty on July 1, 1963. He had previously served at Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia. Warner remained at Sitka only until October 2 of that year when he was asked to resign. Romaine Hardcastle, a Sitkan who had been assisting at the park as a "gratuitous worker," took over as the National Park Service representative in Sitka until a new park historian could arrive.²⁴⁶

While Hardcastle was serving in an acting capacity, arrangements were made to ship three of the poles at Sitka National Monument to New York for display at the 1964 World's Fair. Two of the poles were taken from where they stood at the entrance to Lovers' Lane while a third pole ("No. 12") was taken from near the end of the lane. The poles, which would be returned to Sitka in 1966 and emplantated at the entrance to the park, were loaded on a steamer on March 11, 1963, and shipped to New York.²⁴⁷

245. MNR, May 5, 1960; April 11, 1963; in "Routine Reports;" "Master plan for preservation and use of Sitka National Monument," April 1960, in File D-18/52 at Sitka National Historical Park; Ingersoll, William T., "Master plan of Sitka National Monument," September 15, 1964, in National Park Service's Harper's Ferry Center, Alaska Collection.

246. MNR, no date (for October 1963), in "Routine Reports."

247. MNR, November 29, 1963; March 27, 1964; April 25, 1966, in "Routine Reports."

About the time the poles went off to the World's Fair, William T. Ingersoll, an experienced park historian with a master's degree in history from Columbia University, arrived at Sitka to begin duty as park historian. Hardcastle, who later received a cash incentive award for her outstanding work during the time the monument was without a historian, continued in the service as a museum aide and technician until 1967.²⁴⁸

Park personnel in this period were busy preparing for the new visitor center, which would soon be dedicated. Funding for the center had been repeatedly requested in monument budgets, but money was only obtained after a visit to Sitka by National Park Service Associate Director Elvind T. Scoyen in 1961. Monument officials briefed Scoyen on the need for a visitor center and the possibility of cooperation with the Board of Indian Arts and Crafts. After Scoyen returned to Washington a cooperative funding arrangement that would provide for a visitor center at Sitka was worked out between the two agencies.²⁴⁹

The Littlefield house, which stood near the entrance to the monument and had been acquired on August 23, 1963, was burned by the Sitka Fire Department in June of 1964. Sitka personnel applied for and received financial assistance from the Mount McKinley National History Association for publication of a booklet about Sitka National Monument that could be sold to visitors.²⁵⁰

With the Littlefield house gone, the grounds overlooking the new visitor center were spruced up. Chief Saanaheit's pole and four house posts were emplaced at the monument entrance. The latter were set on the elevated ground overlooking the entrance. The interior of the center was enhanced by seven house posts and a house front loaned by Sitkans to the National Park Service for display.²⁵¹

248. MNR, March 27, 1964; June 24, 1964; July 2, 1967, in "Routine Reports."

249. Hall, George A., personal communication, 1986.

250. MNR, August 20, 1963; June 24, 1964, in "Routine Reports."

The posts were in place just in time for ceremonies held in connection with dedication of the visitor center on August 14, 1965. National Park Service Regional Director Edward A. Hummel delivered the dedication address, which was attended by a large number of Sitkans and visiting dignitaries that included Susan Barrow, Curator of the Alaska Historical Library and Museum; Dr. Frederick J. Dockstader, Director, Museum of the American Indian and Chair of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board; Mathilda Gambel of Angoon, joint lender with Sitka's Patrick Paul of the wolf house posts installed in the lobby; and Robert G. Hart, general manager of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board.²⁵²

251. MNR, May 31, 1965, in "Routine Reports."

252. MNR, May 31, 1965; September 1, 1965, in "Routine Reports."

Resource Issues, 1940--1965

The period 1940 to 1965 began with bright promise, as the National Park Service devoted new attention to Sitka National Monument's resources, and then became a frustrating time as resource preservation had to be weighed in the balance with national defense needs.

Development ideas

Part of the bright promise came from desires to expand and enhance the monument's resources. Miller, although not trained as an historian, began a research program and turned up an original transfer map (showing Sitka properties transferred from the Russian to American governments in 1867) and a typewritten inventory in records of the U.S. Commissioner at Sitka. He also supplemented his monthly narrative reports with photographs of resources in Sitka National Monument and historic sites in Sitka proper.

Been, who said in 1939 that the monument was "antithetical" to National Park Service purposes, in 1940 endorsed Miller's recommendation that the service assume jurisdiction over Castle Hill. He also suggested a project to salvage the wreck of Neva, a Russian American Company ship that foundered near Sitka in 1813. A local diver with his own equipment was available in Sitka for about \$40 per hour and might be hired as a skilled workman by the CCC. He also advised "There is probably no immediate responsibility of the Service toward historical values in Alaska of greater importance than acquisition and protection of St. Michael's Cathedral." A year later, Been again discussed acquisition of St. Michael's and added the old Russian cemetery to his list of Sitka properties important to the park service. In 1942, Been concluded that the National Park Service should preserve the Russian Orphanage.²⁵³

253. MNR, August 3, 1940; Been, Frank T., December 11, 1940 and December 27, 1940, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service; Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park, December 20, 1941, Memorandum for the Director; and September 14, 1942, in RG 79 Selected Documents; Pierce, Richard A., "Record of maritime disasters in Russian America,

Regional officials and national officials of the service, as well, took a new interest in Sitka's historical significance and encouraged their Alaskan representatives to identify and document its physical manifestations. The Region IV historian outlined areas of significance that Miller could investigate and Miller's immediate supervisor, Been, encouraged him to prepare a historical development plan for Sitka.

The Washington-based Supervisor of Historic Sites commented that the proposal to acquire Castle Hill had merit and suggested that Miller should provide a map and explanatory data showing the relationship of the hill to Sitka National Monument and also show any other historic sites in the vicinity. Miller even arranged for Lynn A. Forest, at the time a U.S. Forest Service architect at Juneau, to come to Sitka and take measurements and photographs necessary to make documentary drawings of Saint Michael's Cathedral.²⁵⁴

A tangible sign of the renewed interest came in April of 1940 when construction began on two pit toilets, the first sanitary facilities in Sitka National Monument. Construction and purchase of a building for an office and modern toilets at the entrance to the monument was approved somewhat later.²⁵⁵

part two: 1800-1867," in Proceedings of the Alaskan Marine Archaeology Workshop, Alaska Sea Grant Report 83-9 (Fairbanks: University of Alaska, 1983): 62.

254. Hagen, Olaf T., Regional Historian, Region IV, National Park Service, May 13, 1940, to Regional Director; Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park, June 10, 1940, to Custodian Miller; Lee, Ronald F., Supervisor of Historic Sites, National Park Service, December 11, 1940, to Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park; MNR, April 2, 1942, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

255. MNR, May 2, 1940; Drury, Newton B., Director, National Park Service, January 9, 1942, to Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

There was also interest in acquiring houses on the east side of the road that passed by the monument entrance. Three of the houses sat on the elevated area that later overlooked the visitor center built in the 1960s, while two others lined the road to the north.²⁵⁶

Totem pole preservation

Concurrent with the expanded interest was a feeling that the totem pole preservation problem had finally been brought under control. Early in 1940, B. Frank Heintzleman, Regional Forester for the U.S. Forest Service, was able to advise the National Park Service that the Sitka totem pole work begun in 1939 was almost done. All "sixteen" poles had been restored, treated with preservative, and reset in their former locations. As required in the National Park Service approval to go ahead with the work using CCC crews, a photo record had been made of all poles before work was begun.²⁵⁷

Successful completion of the CCC totem pole project left the originals of newly recarved poles lying on the monument grounds exposed to the weather. When Mrs. Robbins (first name unknown), the wife of an officer assigned to Sitka Naval Air Station, suggested that the discarded originals might be protected there, protracted correspondence ensued. She thought the poles could be housed in the station's recreation building. Comdr. J.R. Tate, commanding officer of the station, followed up her spoken comments with a letter to Been. He offered to house the poles in the corners of the navy gymnasium.²⁵⁸

256. Ashby, Joe, personal communication, December 11, 1986.

257. Heintzleman, B. Frank, Alaska Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, February 17, 1940, to A.E. Demaray, Acting Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

258. Miller, Ben C., November 19, 1941, to Director, National Park Service; Tate, J.R., November 19, 1941, to Frank T. Been, in File 11/460-8, "Totem poles, SNM, preservation up to 1945," at Sitka National Historical Park.

Pole preservation remained a continuing problem. Pressure treatment, which appeared to be the most effective means of preservation, was difficult with such large objects in any case and almost impossible in a remote location such as Sitka. One alternative, suggested by a park service engineer, was to cut the poles into manageable lengths so that they could be treated at Sitka. This would eliminate the necessity of shipping them intact to the West Coast where it was possible to treat them in their original size.²⁵⁹

Been agreed that moving the original poles to Japonski Island was a good idea. Demaray, temporarily acting Director of the National Park Service, responded that the poles "have no proper place at Sitka National Monument...." He preferred, however, that they be offered to the Territorial Museum at Juneau. When the museum declined to accept the discarded originals, Demaray approved their relocation to the naval air station.²⁶⁰

Although he finally had approval to move the discarded originals, Miller foresaw difficulties. He requested permission to destroy poles that he believed too rotten to preserve. He would salvage those figures from the poles that could be restored. Been endorsed Miller's request, but it provoked a quick refusal from Washington. "Original specimens always have scientific value which duplicates...could not possess....they are not to be destroyed as surplus." After this, the discarded original poles were moved. When Been reported on his next visit to Sitka, made on an inspection trip to Glacier Bay and Sitka between August 12 and September 4, 1942, he was able to record that the poles "have been nicely utilized by the navy." Restored sections

259. Pierce, E.T., Senior Engineer, National Park Service, March 18, 1942, to Branch of Historic Sites, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

260. Been, Frank T., December 15, 1951, to J.R. Tate; Demaray, A.E., December 24, 1941, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service; Demaray, A.E., May 9, 1942, to Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park, in File 11/460-8; Tomlinson, O.A., Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service, January 13, 1942, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

of the poles stood at entrances to the air station's administration and recreation buildings. Several sections had also been placed inside the recreation building.²⁶¹

Discarded original poles came up again in 1947, when Grant H. Pearson had succeeded Miller as the custodian at Sitka. By that time the navy had turned its Japonski Island facilities over to the Alaska Native Service (ANS). ANS operated them as Mount Edgecumbe boarding school for Alaska Native children. One of the school's staff, George W. Fedoroff, advised Pearson that a former navy building would be converted to a museum. He suggested that discarded original poles not moved in 1942 could be housed in the museum. This received National Park Service approval and on November 21-22, 1947, Mount Edgecumbe officials took delivery of the remaining old poles from Sitka National Monument.²⁶² After this, as Mount Edgecumbe officials came and went, some parts of the old poles were taken for souvenirs and other parts were discarded and burned in Sitka's dump. George Hall retrieved the last full pole in 1961 and placed it at Sheldon Jackson Museum.²⁶³

Other than routine maintenance, no new major projects were taken in connection with Sitka National Monument's totem poles until the 1970s.

261. Miller, Ben C., June 1, 1942, to Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park; Been, Frank T., July 21, 1942, to Director, National Park Service; Tolson, Hillory A., August 3, 1942, to Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park, in File 11/460-8; Been, Frank T., "Notes and interviews, inspection of Glacier Bay National Monument and Sitka National Monument," August 12 to September 4, 1942, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

262. Pearson, Grant H., July 31, 1947, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service; Tomlinson, O.A., Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service, August 7, 1947, to Custodian, Sitka; Pearson, Grant H., December 2, 1947, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service, in File 11/460-8 at Sitka National Historical Park.

263. Hall, George A., personal communication, 1986.

Gravel operations

The private gravel operations at the mouth of Indian River became a major problem when Navy contractors took over the former Sitka Transfer company operations. The boundary was not clearly defined and the contractors built gravel bunkers on what turned out to be National Park Service land to the east of Indian River. Navy plans to build a flume were dropped when Miller told them park service permission would be required. Miller optimistically concluded this first report by commenting that the dredging should benefit the park by preventing further erosion of the west bank of Indian River.²⁶⁴

The contractors soon wanted more gravel than the outwash at the mouth of the river could supply. The service's immediate response was cautious. It stood ready to aid national defense, but the navy could take Indian River gravel only after showing that no other source was available. No monument land was to be transferred to the navy. Gravel was to be taken only from the river bed, an island at the mouth of the river was to be left intact, removal was to be conducted in such a manner that no harm would result to the natural beauty of the monument, and after the supply of gravel was exhausted the retaining wall along the river bank was to be repaired.²⁶⁵ No other source was available, and navy gravel removal continued throughout the year.²⁶⁶

On the ground activities took a different turn, and as early as June of 1941 Miller had to stop the navy contractors from cutting the trees on the island in the mouth of Indian River. After an October 1941 flood destroyed a strip of river bank about 600 feet long and 6 to 40 feet wide, Miller blamed the destruction on the

264. Miller, Ben C., March 14, 1940, to Superintendent Been, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

265. Demaray, A.E., April 26, 1941, to Custodian, Sitka National Monument; December 3, 1941, to Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

266. Sitka National Monument annual report for fiscal year ending June 30, 1941, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

dredging. It had resulted in a pit at the river mouth 800 feet long, 30 to 200 feet wide, and 4 to 30 feet deep. This, in Miller's opinion, had caused the material in the river bed to wash into the pit during the flood. As a result, the river bank slid into the water, carrying its cribbing with it. He believed that further erosion would occur so long as the navy was permitted to mine for gravel in Indian River.²⁶⁷

Park service sensibilities about the monument's values took a back seat to the war effort after December 7, 1941. Officials authorized the navy to take gravel from the wooded island at the mouth of Indian River as well as from the river bed. The expanded operations, they believed, would detract from the charm of the monument's footpath, but not be destructive to the main portion of the monument.²⁶⁸

The gravel operations turned out to be plagued with problems and destructive of park values. On September 18 and 19, 1942, a flood rampaged down Indian River. Gravel removal that steepened Indian River's gradient in its lower reaches may have increased the flood's intensity. The torrent tore out both Indian River bridges. It also washed away 200 feet of road, 250 feet of trail, and 10 to 50 feet of river bank on either side. Two army men, whose first names are unknown, Sgt. Riley and Pvt. Westfall, who had been on the footbridge when it washed away, were drowned. They were part of the army detail guarding the navy gravel operation. A sailor, Frank Smith, was also washed off the bridge but survived by clinging to one of the downed bridge's cables. The waters swept away a totem pole that stood near the footbridge, but the navy later recovered it in the bay and

267. Been, Frank T., radiogram, June 17, 1941, to Custodian Miller; Miller, Ben C., November 5, 1941, to Superintendent Been, Mount McKinley National Park, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

268. Miller, Ben C., March 5, 1942, to Lieutenant W.J. Stribling, Residence Officer in Charge, Sitka Naval Air Station; Been, Frank T., March 10, 1942, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

returned it to the monument. At the same time, it destroyed a portion of the pipeline that took water from Indian River to the navy and city water reservoir.²⁶⁹

The navy contractors threw a temporary bridge across Indian River, but fire followed the flood. On November 11, 1942, an army guard attempting to light a lantern started a fire that destroyed an office building and repair shop at the gravel bunkers. Some progress was made because a new road, to replace the old one being destroyed by dredging, was almost completed in the same month.²⁷⁰

In March of 1943 sailors from a naval construction battalion (Seabees) took over operation of the Indian River gravel plant.²⁷¹

At one point, this encroachment was seen to benefit the park. The dredging would form a small lagoon that might add to park values and, as a quid pro quo, the navy agreed to widen the entrance to the monument. This would provide adequate space for parking and turnaround.²⁷²

Construction on Japonski Island was almost completed by 1944 and the need for Indian River gravel diminished. The army cooperatively restored its area of the monument to as natural a state as possible.

Miller began negotiating with the navy for its share of the restoration work. V.S. Carrier, Resident Officer in Charge, at the Naval Air Station, Sitka, submitted a report to the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks detailing the damage that had been done

269. MNR, October 5, 1942, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

270. MNR, December 3, 1942, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

271. MNR, April 3, 1943, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

272. Cahalane, Victor, "In Charge," National Park Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service, January 23, 1943, to Director, National Park Service, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

by the gravel operation. He proposed measures that might be instituted to partially rectify it. Photographs made by Miller in 1941 documented the report. Carrier concluded that dredging deep holes at the mouth of the river had caused an increased stream velocity. This gradually cut back the river bed. The change in the river bed in turn had cut back the river banks, which had caused a reverse curvature in the river. Cutting action in the vicinity of the footbridge resulted, causing the bridge to collapse.

Carrier recommended that the navy remove its bunkers and related buildings, allowing the City of Sitka to salvage the lumber. The river channel should be restored to its original course. Gravel acquired in the course of changing the course of the river should be used to prevent the river from redirecting itself into its old channel. Logs and stumps which could not be burned on site should be placed in one of the dredging holes and covered with gravel. Additional gravel and debris accumulated on site should be leveled out. The north bank of Indian River should be dressed to prevent under wash. While log cribbing should be built to prevent further bank erosion, Carrier recommended that the navy not replace the suspension bridge washed out in the 1942 flood.²⁷³

Carrier's letter brought Rear Adm. Carl A. Trexel, Director of the Alaska Division, Bureau of Yards and Docks, to Sitka National Monument in March of 1945. He agreed to Carrier's recommendations. Park service concurrence followed, with a commendation for Miller and Carrier for their cooperative work. By April of 1945 the navy had razed its gravel bunkers and all but one of the shacks used in dredging operations. Work was also begun on erosion-control cribbing along the banks of Indian River. More than 600 feet of log cribbing was in place by August of 1945, only to be washed out in a September flood. This left the problem, which was to continue, but active dredging was not to resume for several years.²⁷⁴

273. Carrier, V.S., Resident Officer in Charge, Naval Air Station, Sitka, February 25, 1945, to Bureau of Yards and Docks, in files of Sitka National Historical Park.

Gravel problems

Gravel removal at the mouth of Indian River resumed and continued intermittently through the 1950s. An unknown amount was removed by a private party in 1951, the Bureau of Land Management sold an additional 20,000 cubic yards of gravel in 1957, the Public Health Service removed 40,000 cubic yards in 1958; and, after the State of Alaska assumed jurisdiction over tidelands in 1959, its Department of Public Works removed 100,000 yards of gravel and 20,000 more cubic yards were sold to private parties. The continued sales undermined many of the monument's values and its superintendent recommended no further investment at Sitka until the National Park Service controlled the tidelands adjacent to the monument.²⁷⁵

A peripherally related gravel issue arose in 1958 when the Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company obtained permission to divert Indian River water to wash gravel needed for pulp mill construction. Monument officials objected to this withdrawal as it could dry up Indian River and Fish and Wildlife Service officials consented only if diversion operations would be suspended in times of low water.²⁷⁶

274. Miller, Ben C., March 3, 1945, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service; Tomlinson, O.A., Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service, March 9, 1945, to Custodian, Sitka National Monument; Tolson, Hillory A., Acting Director, National Park Service, March 28, 1945, to Regional Director, Region IV; MNR, April 3, 1945; Sitka National Monument annual report for fiscal year ended June 30, 1946, July 8, 1946, in RG 79 Selected Documents.

275. Summary from File D3219, "Grounds/Shoreline Erosion & Watershed Control - Indian River Erosion Problem 1971 - 1979," at Sitka National Historical Park; MNR, March 10, 1959, in "Routine Reports."

276. Hall, George A., Acting Superintendent, Sitka and Glacier Bay National Monuments, March 14, 1958, to Regional Director, Region IV, National Park Service; Gharett, John T., Regional Director, April 11, 1958, to J.A. Hutchinson, Resident Engineer, Alaska Lumber & Pulp Co., Inc., in File D3219/1930-1970 at Sitka National Historical Park.

State officials aggravated the gravel situation in 1960 when they issued permits for removal of 140,000 cubic yards of material adjacent to the mouth of Indian River. The National Park Service, although the adjacent upland owner, was not consulted about the permits which were valid until 1969.²⁷⁷ The state subsequently decided that it would issue no new permits for removal of gravel at the mouth of Indian River. Several state permits remained in effect, as did a few old permits issued by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. There was continuing pressure for new leases.²⁷⁸

The gravel situation at Sitka became critical in 1964 when the State of Alaska received federal funding to construct an airport on Japonski Island. Engineers estimated that the construction would require one million cubic yards of gravel. The tidelands off Sitka National Monument were the most likely source of such material. Although the National Park Service had been trying to obtain control of the tidelands for several years, it had been unable to do so. There was no funding for the cadastral survey required before the federal government could lease the tidelands, which had passed to the state and in part to the City of Sitka under provisions of the Alaska Statehood Act. The situation was aggravated because the City of Sitka, a primary user of the gravel, now controlled some of the tidelands.²⁷⁹

Almost 10 years passed after the 1945 floods washed out the navy's contribution to Indian River erosion control before a new major project was undertaken. A major flood in 1960, as violent as those of the early 1940s, caused monument personnel to fear that future floods might do irreparable damage.²⁸⁰ It also

277. MNR, June 14, 1960, in "Routine Reports."

278. MNR, October 12, 1959; December 23, 1960; December 2, 1962; April 11, 1963; July 24, 1964; in "Routine Reports."

279. MNR, June 24, 1964; October 26, 1964, in "Routine Reports."

280. "Project Construction Proposal Form," January 23, 1957; Park Historian, Sitka National Monument, September 9, 1960, to Superintendent, Sitka and Glacier Bay National Monuments, in File D-3219 at Sitka National Historical Park.

seemed timely to try some flood control work because the State of Alaska had finally agreed to discontinue gravel operations at the mouth of Indian River.

The new plan to prevent Indian River from washing away Sitka National Monument involved digging a channel approximately 800 feet long from the river mouth to mid-monument, diverting the river from its then existing course to the new channel with rock rip-rap, and rebuilding eroded banks with the gravel obtained in the course of digging the new channel. The plan was implemented in July of 1961 after approval of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game had been obtained. A long spell of dry weather facilitated implementation by causing the river level to be extremely low.

When the dry weather ended on August 11, 1961, Sitka had 9 1/2 inches of rain in 36 hours. This caused Indian River to rise about five feet and to divert itself into the new channel. The new channeling and rip-rap protected the monument from what could have been an even more serious erosion problem, although several feet of the lower end of the rip-rap fell into the channel and had to be replaced after the waters subsided.

This early 1960s effort to control Indian River erosion ended with recognition that an additional 20 to 40 feet of gravel fill would need to be placed behind the rip-rap if it were to survive.²⁸¹

Tlingit fort site and blockhouse replica

Two other resource issues overshadowed the gravel issue in the late 1950s. These issues were the archeological verification of the Tlingit fort site and the razing of the blockhouse replica constructed in the park in 1927.

Archaeological investigation of the fort site came in 1958 after service officials concluded that unless the site could be archeologically verified, retention of Sitka National Monument in

²⁸¹. Hall, George A., September 1, 1961, untitled summary in File D-3219 at Sitka National Historical Park.

the national park system could not be justified. University of Alaska archeologist Frederick Hadleigh West arrived and conducted test excavations but could not find any remains. Then Alex Andrews, a Sitka Tlingit, was consulted and pointed out the site. Once oriented, West was able to interpret surface features that included house pits and outlines of the palisade that had encircled the fort. Artifacts recovered were removed to the University of Alaska at Fairbanks for study before being returned to the National Park Service. While in Sitka, West also excavated at the Russian sailors' memorial, and found no evidence of burials there.²⁸²

Razing of the blockhouse created a storm of protest. In the view of park officials, the blockhouse had become an attractive nuisance. Left open, it was vandalized by graffiti and sometimes used as a convenient substitute for the toilets at the park entrance. Sealed up, it invited forcible entry. Somewhat deteriorated, it was also a potential hazard to visitors. Visiting National Park Service officials made a habit of objecting to its presence on monument grounds.

On July 21, 1959, when Hall saw a tractor working across Indian River, he arranged for the operator of the tractor to pull down the blockhouse after receiving telephone approval from his superior at Juneau. Remains of the collapsed structure were then bulldozed further onto the beach and burned.

While, given what later proved to be Sitkans' affection for the old blockhouse, its destruction would have become a cause for controversy in any case, coincidence directed immediate public attention to the matter. Passing students observed the burning pile of debris on the beach, interpreted the octagonal framework rising above the pile to be remnants of a helicopter, and alerted the Sitka fire department.

The upshot of the coincidence was that a large segment of Sitka's

282. U.S. Department of the Interior, Information Service, "Exact site of Alaskan fort where Sitka Indians last fought Russians discovered after 154 years," November 20, 1958, press release in personal files of George A. Hall, Anchorage, Alaska.

population, the fire department, and a photographer for the local newspaper arrived for the end of the replica blockhouse which had been erected through community efforts in the 1920s. Sitka erupted with protests that reached the Secretary of the Interior, but satisfactory amends were not made until the 1960s.²⁸³

The blockhouse controversy continued throughout 1959 and into 1960. In February of 1960, Dr. John Hussey, San Francisco-based historian for the National Park Service's Western Region (the old Region IV), and Sitka and Glacier Bay National Monument Superintendent Leone J. Mitchell met with the Sitka Chamber of Commerce on the subject. This followed a January 29 session at which chamber members blistered Hall for his role in the destruction of the blockhouse.²⁸⁴

Sitka's ire over the blockhouse issue was ultimately calmed by a National Park Service promise to construct a new replica blockhouse. Known as the Blockhouse C reconstruction, the replica was built in downtown Sitka in the old Russian cemetery between Kogwonton and Marine streets. Plans for the replica were prepared using records available at Sitka and a contract was let. On September 19, 1961, National Park Service architect Robert Gann arrived to supervise the construction.²⁸⁵

The blockhouse issue continued to cause problems after completion of the replica. The new replica was of octagonal shape, like the 1926 replica of blockhouse D which it was designed to replace. It was located within a few feet of the spot on which Russian blockhouse C had once stood, but blockhouse C had been square in design. The new replica would later be criticized as being of the wrong design for its location. Its situation was further complicated because the blockhouse sat on land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. All of the difficulties

283. Hall, George A., personal communication, 1986.

284. MNR, February 9, 1960; Hall, George A., personal communication, 1986.

285. MNR, September 23, 1961, in "Routine Reports."

would continue to make the blockhouse a complex problem as Sitka National Monument evolved through the 1960s, 1970s, and into the 1980s.

Preservation Professionalism and Sitka

National Park Service efforts to deal with the blockhouse issues at Sitka, and indeed with other archeological and historical issues at Sitka reflected the growth of preservation expertise in the service as a whole.

It was only in 1931 that the service was able to add its first professional historian to the staff despite the personal interest of leaders such as Albright and Mather in history and historic sites. This came in the midst of efforts to transfer cultural parks managed by other federal agencies to the National Park Service and only four years after restoration efforts began at what was to become Colonial Williamsburg.²⁸⁶ On the heels of these essentially internal developments came the infusion of expertise provided by park service administration Civilian Conservation Corps work forces that preserved and developed historic sites and of the Historic American Buildings Survey.²⁸⁷

This increasing staff expertise about historic sites probably influenced Frank T. Been's 1939 comments on Sitka's "antithetical" relationship to National Park Service purposes. It certainly made it possible for Ben C. Miller to seek advice from regional historians about the historical studies he was encouraged to undertake and resulted in recognition by senior service officials such as Ronald F. Lee and O.A. Tomlinson of the historical values in Sitka that lay outside monument boundaries.

The results of this evolution of events at Sitka National Monument

286. Albright, Horace M., *Origins of National Park Service Administration of Historic Sites* (Philadelphia: Eastern National Park & Monument Association, 1971): 13, 16.

287. Mackintosh, Barry, *The Historic Sites Survey and National Historic Landmarks Program - A History* (Washington, D.C.: History Division, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1985): 4.

ment were reflected in efforts to systematically define Sitka's interpretive focus, the injunction from Washington to preserve the original totem poles for which replicas were being created, the appointment of historians to the staff at Sitka, and increased use of contractors and regional office professionals in solving monument problems.

The blockhouse reconstruction and later events demonstrated the difficulty, however, of adequately controlling such projects from afar.



Aerial view of Sitka, July 9, 1965. Sitka National Monument is at the top of the photograph. (Photo courtesy of the Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation)

CHAPTER 5 SITKA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, 1966-1986

Introduction

Overview

This section treats events of the last twenty years, from 1966 to 1986. It includes a discussion of the creation of Sitka National Historical Park in 1972 that incorporated the monument property and added the Russian Bishop's House. Following completion of the visitor center, park staff began interpretation programs that included the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center, an outgrowth of a Native arts program at Sitka sponsored by the Board of Indian Arts and Crafts, U.S. Department of the Interior. The addition of the Russian Bishop's House expanded the values that the park commemorated to include the Russians in North America.

The changing context

In January 1966, Sitka's Saint Michael's Cathedral, one of few remaining structures built by the Russians in North America, burned. This disaster jolted Alaskans to recognize how few properties remained from the area's colonial past. At the same time, Alaskans were planning celebrations to commemorate the centennial of the purchase of Alaska by the United States from Russia. A few years later, in 1969, Atlantic Richfield Company discovered a rich oil field at Prudhoe Bay in northern Alaska. People recognized that Alaska would change rapidly.

Simultaneously, the National Park Service was becoming more involved with historic and urban parks. Residents of the United States were undertaking projects to celebrate the nation's bicentennial. Increased attention was focused on the past and preserving evidences of it. In 1966, Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act. The act expanded the National Register of Historic Places and provided grant funds and later tax credits to encourage preservation, restoration, and adaptive re-use of historic structures.

In 1971, Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Section 17(d)(2) of this act directed the Secretary of the Interior to study Alaska's federally-managed lands for possible designation as national parks, monuments, forests, wild and scenic rivers, and wildlife refuges. Nine years later, in 1980, Congress used the studies as the basis for the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. This act classified more than 100 million acres of Alaska lands in 36 federal areas as parks, refuges, and other national conservation system units. About forty percent of the land became part of the national park system. The National Park Service operations in Alaska expanded to fifteen administrative units that included scenic, scientific, cultural, and recreational areas and properties. As units statewide and staffs at the units grew, the Alaska Area Office at Anchorage became the Alaska Regional Office.

Monument/Park Administration

Expansion of the monument

Sitka residents became interested in preserving its historic buildings and interpreting the community's history early in the 1960s. They hoped to increase tourism to their town, and began elaborate preparations to celebrate the Alaska purchase centennial in 1967. A major waterfront redevelopment program was carried out in 1964. After the January 2, 1966, fire that destroyed the Russian Orthodox cathedral and three other historic structures in downtown Sitka, community members and city officials began to work with the National Park Service to plan for preservation and perhaps, reconstruction, of buildings to commemorate Sitka's long, rich history. The San Francisco Service Center conducted a field study at Sitka in 1967. In October of that year, George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director of the National Park Service, and the assistant and regional directors met with Alaska's Governor Walter J. Hickel and discussed the service's interests in the state. The possible expansion of Sitka National Monument was one of the topics discussed.²⁸⁸

288. Merrill J. Mattes, San Francisco Service Center, Reed W. Jarvis, Historian, San Francisco, Bailey Breedlove, Alaska Field Office, Robert Howe, Superintendent, Glacier Bay and Sitka National Monuments, Sitka New Area Study, April 1971.

Theodosius, the Russian Orthodox Bishop of Sitka, met with representatives of the National Park Service in San Francisco in February 1968. At that meeting he expressed the need for assistance from the National Park Service to preserve the historic sites and buildings in church ownership at Sitka. That spring, groups such as the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce were approached to support the idea.

The same year the National Park Service published Sitka Alternatives Study. The report considered three possible courses of action regarding Sitka National Monument. The first was no new acquisitions; the park service would cooperate with other managers of historic properties at Sitka. The second was to acquire the Russian Mission, as the Russian Bishop's House was then called. The final alternative was to acquire the Russian Mission and the reconstructed blockhouse in downtown Sitka. At the blockhouse site, the plan called for construction of a complex of buildings that recreated a part of Russian Sitka. Proposed structures at the site included a section of the palisade, the blockhouse, the Native Russian Orthodox Chapel, and Native cultural structures including a small log school and community house. The study team recommended the third alternative. It also supported redesignating the monument, which was created by presidential proclamation, a national historical park, a category created by Congress.

The study argued for acquisition of the Russian Bishop's House because it was the most important remaining Russian-built structure at Sitka. The owner, the Russian Orthodox Church, was not financially able to provide the desperately needed stabilization work. The State of Alaska did not appear to be in a position to preserve the building. If it did not become public property, the authors of the study argued, the building would probably be destroyed.

A city-sponsored plan, Sitka Historical Sites--A Plan for Redevelopment, was adopted in 1969. It endorsed the alternatives study prepared by the National Park Service. The city's plan also recommended that the National Park Service manage Castle Hill and Old Sitka historic sites, properties at that time part of the Alaska State Park system.²⁸⁹

These two plans were presented to Alaska's congressional delegation. In 1971, Senator Ted Stevens introduced S1497 concerning additions to Sitka National Monument. Representative Nick Begich introduced a similar bill in the house, HR5803. The bills proposed acquiring the Russian Bishop's House. The block-house acquisition was not part of the introduced legislation. The City of Sitka, Sitka Historical Society, and the Alaska Historical Society expressed strong support for the bills. Sitka National Monument Superintendent Daniel R. Kuehn traveled to Washington, D.C., where he testified at Congressional hearings on the proposed legislation.²⁹⁰

Public Law 92-501 was signed by President Richard M. Nixon on Alaska Day, October 18, 1972. Sitka National Monument was redesignated Sitka National Historical Park. The law also enlarged the fort site unit to include the city and state tidelands and a strip of land along Sawmill Creek Road, although the park did not own the lands. Finally, Congress appropriated funds for the National Park Service to purchase the Russian Bishop's House. The act stated that acquisition of the house was for the purpose of "commemorating czarist Russia's exploration and colonization of Alaska. . . ." ²⁹¹ Transfer of ownership was finalized in 1973

289. Sitka Committee for Development of Historic Sites, Sitka Historical Sites - A Plan for Redevelopment, Sitka: City of Sitka, 1969.

290. Kuehn, Daniel, Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, memorandum, November 4, 1987, to Bill Hanable, in files of Alaska Region, National Park Service.

291. PL92-501, October 18, 1972. See also "Land Protection Plan, Sitka National Historical Park, Alaska," April 15, 1985, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

after satisfactory resolution of a civil suit brought against the Orthodox Church in America concerning two feet of land on the west end of the property.²⁹² The park service paid \$106,000 for the land and buildings at the site.

The National Park Service acquired the lot, the house, and two small structures, a school built in 1897 and a residence built in 1887. Several years later, in 1976, the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska of the Orthodox Church in America signed an agreement providing for donation or permanent loan to the National Park Service of church objects in the buildings. For its part, the National Park Service agreed to care for and store the loaned items and to permit the Church to use the chapel in the Russian Bishop's House on certain liturgical occasions.

The reconstructed blockhouse in downtown Sitka was not mentioned in the law. Efforts to transfer management responsibility to the State of Alaska failed, as did attempts to get ownership of land transferred to the park service from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The park service continued to have the responsibility for maintaining the site. Its officials continued to recommend that the site be transferred to state ownership.

The 1972 legislation was important not only for the property and money it added to the Sitka facility, but also because it gave Congressional sanction to a park system unit created by presidential proclamation.

Staff

Park historian William T. Ingersoll left Sitka in the fall of 1966. Another historian, Raymond Geerdes, succeeded him and stayed until 1968. With the appointment of Daniel R. Kuehn in 1969 the park was soon to again have a superintendent. Appointed to oversee Sitka as an historian, Kuehn was designated superintendent when Regional Director John A. Rutter split the management of Glacier Bay and Sitka National Monuments.

292. Bohannon, Charles F., National Park Service, July 16, 1973, to Ken Tapman, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

During Kuehn's tenure a number of significant artifacts were added to Sitka National Historical Park's collections. These included the Herring Rock Robe, a collection of 136 spruce root baskets, 200 of E.W. Merrill's glass plate negatives, and Katlean's hammer. Kuehn also obtained the permanent loan of a number of Coho Clan artifacts including a 12-foot totem, a Chilkat robe and suit, and a large carved frog.

Like his predecessors and successors, Kuehn was active in the Sitka community. He helped to found the Sitka Ninth Infantry, which paraded in authentic uniforms made by the Harpers Ferry Center. The group was a popular feature of historical ceremonies such as those held annually on Alaska Day, October 18. Adopted into the Kiksadi Clan, Kuehn also held leadership posts in the Alaska Native Brotherhood, the Chamber of Commerce, the Sierra Club, the Sitka Historical Society, and the Sitka Rotary Club.²⁹³

Geerdes had hired Ellen Hope Lang (later Hays), a Sitka resident and Tlingit, to work at the park. Lang was an employee at the park for almost 10 years. After a brief interlude in 1973 when Vernon Ruesch served as superintendent, Lang became the park superintendent. She held that position until 1978 when she accepted a position in the Alaska Regional Office of the National Park Service at Anchorage as Native liaison, from which she has since retired. In addition to her park duties, Lang was active in community and statewide historical and cultural groups. On April 17, 1967, she became the first woman member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, a southeast Alaska Native organization founded in 1912. From 1975 to 1981 she was a member of the State Historic Sites Advisory Committee for historic preservation, and from 1972 to 1978 a member and president of the Alaska Humanities Forum state committee. Her other community activities included the Board of Trustees for Sheldon Jackson College and the Central Council, Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. After retiring from the National Park Service, Hays continued her involvement with Sitka National Historical Park by assuming a leadership role with the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center.

Susan Edelstein followed Lang as superintendent from 1978 to 1980. During Edelstein's tenure, Gary J. Candelaria accepted the position of Chief Interpreter and Park Ranger. Formally

293. Kuehn, November 4, 1987.

trained as a forester at Oregon State University, Candelaria started working for the National Park Service in 1975 at Saratoga National Historical Park in New York. In 1977 he transferred to Ozark National Scenic Riverways Park in Missouri. There he decided that he wanted to work at a historic site and at a small park. The Sitka opening appealed to him, he applied, and in March 1979 started working at the park. He has been active in several of the historical groups at Sitka; serving on the board and as president of Sitka Historical Society, as branch manager of the Alaska Natural History Association, and most recently, as part of the group to plan activities at Sitka to commemorate the bicentennial of the signing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

The present superintendent, Ernest J. Suazo, came to Sitka National Historical Park in October 1980. Prior to working at Sitka, Suazo had been in the National Park Service's management training program in Washington, D.C. There he carried out several special assignments. Earlier, Suazo worked as an administrative officer at Dinosaur National Monument and Chamizal National Memorial. The stability of the staff during the recent years of the park's history has been important for the park, especially for providing continuity in the Russian Bishop's House restoration project.

In contrast, there has been frequent turnover of project supervisors for the Russian Bishop's House restoration project. Staff from Denver Service Center, the Alaska Regional Office, and Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park at Skagway have had leadership responsibilities for phases of the Russian Bishop's House restoration and leadership responsibilities have shifted as well. One individual, Gene Ervine, initially worked on the project as a laborer. He became involved with the Russian Bishop's House again as part of the Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center where the interpretive exhibits are being designed and built.

Throughout the contemporary period, the park participated in a variety of intern programs with the local schools to provide training for students and to obtain workers at the park. In addition, the park staff accepted a number of people given Alterna-

tive Sentencing by local courts. In 1982, for example, these programs involved 54 people who performed 1.93 work years of labor at the park.

Visitation

Seventy to eighty percent of 1960s visitors to Sitka National Monument/Historical Park came on cruise ships between May and October.²⁹⁴ In 1967 the first jet airline service direct from Sitka to Anchorage and Seattle became available. The superintendent noted in his monthly report for June 1967 that the airline service increased park visitation.²⁹⁵ (That year was also the Alaska purchase centennial and tourism figures were higher throughout the state.) About the same time, the state started its Marine Highway ferry system. During the past twenty years, visitation at the park as well as to Alaska has boomed. In 1985 a record 121,067 people visited the park.²⁹⁶

Most park visitors were on half-day tours of Sitka and their visit to the park was 25 to 30 minutes. The visitor center became the focus of most people's visit to the park. Few actually got out into the park.²⁹⁷

Administrative issues

Under terms of the statehood act tidelands, except within city boundaries, became the property of the State of Alaska. Part of the visitors center had been built on property not owned by the National Park Service. Some of the land belonged to the City of

294. Addendum to final interpretive plan, 1969.

295. Howe, Robert E., July 26, 1967, to Regional Director, in Monthly Report files at Sitka National Historical Park.

296. Suazo, Ernest J., Sitka National Historical Park, January 24, 1985, and March 5, 1986, to Regional Director, Alaska Region, in Superintendent's Annual Reports files at Alaska Regional Office.

297. "Sitka National Historical Park Resources Management Plan," 1985: 10.

Sitka. The other part belonged to the state. Park service personnel sought long-term leases to the tidelands and definition of its water rights to Indian River to protect the park's resources. In the 1972 legislation, Congress defined these areas as within the park. The law expressly prohibited the park from purchasing public property. The land could be donated to the federal government, however.

The City of Sitka granted the park a 55-year lease at minimal cost, \$1.00 per year, to the 1.61 acres of tidelands it managed that were adjacent to the park on July 29, 1964. The lease was amended on December 1, 1964, to correct the termination date of the lease to August 1, 2019, instead of 2119. A new lease was signed on March 28, 1972, to conform to new boundaries. It encompassed and slightly enlarged the first lease. The revised 55-year lease was for 69,943 square feet of tidelands and will terminate on March 28, 2027.²⁹⁸

In 1964 the park staff approached state officials about transferring ownership of Lots 5 and 6, USS 3695 on the east boundary of the park that belonged to the state. No action on the request has been taken. Most of the land was within the Sawmill Creek Road right-of-way and development of the strip is extremely doubtful. At the same time the park applied the the state for a long-term lease to the tidelands adjacent to the park. In 1967 the park service arranged for a cadastral survey of the tidelands in question, required before the lease could be processed. The purpose of the lease was "to prevent further change in the salmon spawning habitat, to protect the Monument from any stream course change that would result in extensive erosion, and to preserve the historic scene commemorated there."²⁹⁹ The lease of the state tidelands adjacent to the park was finalized on December 10, 1971, shortly after the state received title to the land. The park received a 55-year lease at \$1.00 per year to 47.915

298. Lease, City and Borough of Sitka, March 28, 1972, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

299. Howe, Robert E., Superintendent, Sitka and Glacier Bay National Monuments, June 1, 1967, to Howard W. Pollock, House of Representatives, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

acres of tidelands adjacent to Sitka National Monument as described on Alaska Tidelands Survey 649, approved September 24, 1971. At that time the purpose of the lease was said to be to provide tidelands adjoining the park for recreational use and preservation of a historic site.³⁰⁰ This lease was revised on March 22, 1973, when the National Park Service applied to construct a breakwater along the beach. The state had no objection. This lease will expire on March 21, 2028.

Planning

In addition to coping with the day-to-day pragmatic administrative issues, planning for the park's future also demanded the Sitka park service staff's attention. As described above, the National Park Service conducted several studies of the monument and other historic resources in Sitka during the late 1960s and early 1970s. These studies led to the park service acquisition of the Russian Bishop's House and redesignation of the monument as a historical park in 1972.

Shortly after acquisition of the Russian Bishop's House, a National Park Service planning team began developing a general interpretive plan for the Sitka park. Members of the planning team included Ellen Hope Lang (later Hays), Superintendent, and Ken Adkisson, Park Ranger, at Sitka; Tom Ritter, Interpretive Specialist from the Alaska Regional Office; James T. "Rocky" Richardson, Regional Chief of Interpretation, Pacific Northwest Regional Office; Donn Follows, Interpretive Planner, and Jean Swearingen, Interpretive Planner, from Denver Service Center. The final plan was approved and printed in October 1976.

The park's resource preservation management objective, as stated in the plan, was "To preserve the decisive battleground site of the Russian conquest of Alaska in 1804 and of the cultural resources, historic objects, and artifacts of the native Tlingit-Kiksadi Indians as well as the Russian colonization."³⁰¹

300. Lease ADL 32157, Alaska Tidelands, December 10, 1971; and Keenan, F.J., Director, Alaska Division of Lands, September 17, 1971, to George B. Hartzog Jr., Director, National Park Service, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

Exhibits and programs at the park were to interpret Tlingit culture, European culture and interest in Alaska that led to the 1804 battle, the battle, and the results of the battle. The Russian Bishop's House was to be restored. Its role in the park's interpretation was poorly defined because restoration work was just beginning.

Because the Russian Bishop's House was not incorporated into the 1976 study, an addendum to the plan was prepared in 1979. A cooperative team that included several members of the earlier planning effort participated. The members of the 1979 team included Susan Edelstein, Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park; Jean Swearingen, Denver Service Center; Cliff Soubier, Harpers Ferry Center; James T. "Rocky" Richardson, Pacific Northwest Regional Office; and Robert Foster, Alaska Regional Office. As a result of their meeting at the park, the team issued an addendum to the 1976 plan.

The 1979 plan stated that the historic fabric of the Russian Bishop's House would not be compromised. The integrity of the building to the period of restoration, 1843-1853, would be maintained. The addendum recommended that the visitor center house Tlingit interpretive exhibits and the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center. The European period materials would be moved to the Russian Bishop's House. The plan also recommended interpretive signs for the trail through the park and a wayside exhibit shelter that, ideally, would be near the city dock and the Russian Bishop's House.

The park service managers felt that the two planning efforts needed to be integrated to achieve a cohesive park-wide interpretive program. A planning team of specialists from Harpers Ferry Center, key staff of the Sitka park, and an interpretive specialist from the Alaska Regional office met at Sitka in June 1981. By this time restoration work on the Russian Bishop's House had progressed far enough that it was time to address the interpretive exhibits in the house and to begin to plan to rehabilitate the exhibits in the visitor center.

301. Final Interpretive Plan, October 1976: 2.

As a result of the June meeting, Harpers Ferry Center issued an interpretive prospectus for the Sitka park in October 1981. This report resolved several issues concerning adaptive re-use of the Russian Bishop's House. It also blended the programs of the visitor center and the Russian Bishop's House. The park's expanded theme was to explore the relationship of Russian and Tlingit cultures with the natural environment of Sitka. Five areas would be developed: Tlingit culture, Russian exploration and colonization, the Russian Orthodox Church, the clash of cultures, and the perpetuation of Tlingit culture and art.³⁰² The plan detailed the interpretive program for the Russian Bishop's House. The constraints of the building size, anticipated traffic pattern, and preservation requirements dictated a limited interpretive program. The exterior and second floor of the Russian Bishop's House would be restored and furnished to the 1853-1867 period. The dates of interpretation were changed to associate the building with Ivan Veniaminov (later Saint Innocent) who was not associated with the earlier period. The first floor interpretation would have text, graphics, and artifacts. The report stressed that the structure was an artifact itself and should be treated as such. New exhibits would be designed for the visitors center. The auditorium would be where all films, slide shows, and public programs would be held.³⁰³

In 1982 the Sitka park staff began preparing a land protection plan that was mandated for each unit of the National Park Service that had private or non-federal land or interest in land within its authorized boundary. The Sitka park's land protection plan was formally approved on April 15, 1985. The plan defined four resource management and visitor use objectives. The first was to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources in the park. The second was to preserve and maintain a safe, clean, accessible, and interesting park for visitors. The third and fourth were to promote understanding of the history and culture of the Tlingits (including the contemporary people) and the Russians. The plan's first land protection priority was for acquisition of

302. Harpers Ferry Center, Sitka National Historical Park Revised Interpretive Prospectus (October 1981):1-3, 11.

303. Revised Interpretive Prospectus, 1981: 4.

the private property adjacent to the Russian Bishop's House to prevent development that would intrude upon and detract from the site. The second priority was acquisition of Lots 5 and 6 owned by the State of Alaska on the northeast boundary of the park. The park was prohibited by Public Law 92-501, the 1972 law that expanded the park, from acquiring state or municipal land except through donation. Although not a land protection issue, the plan recommended that the blockhouse site be transferred to the State of Alaska.³⁰⁴

Recently, a draft Resource Management Plan for the park has been developed. The purpose of this planning effort was to provide guidelines, directions, and rationales for preservation and management actions at the park. Eleven park issues were identified and discussed in the draft plan. In priority listing of importance, the issues were: (1) preservation of the 1804 fort site, (2) Indian River water allocation, (3) preservation of the park's totem poles, (4) historic collections, (5) preservation of the 1804 battle site, (6) acquisition of artifacts and archival materials, (7) preservation of House 105, (8) preservation of Old School, (9) erosion control adjacent to the visitor center, (10) controlling the spruce aphids, and (11) the Russian blockhouse. Alaska Regional Office notes indicated that the first issue, bank erosion threatening the 1804 fort site, had been resolved and should be eliminated from the final version of the plan.³⁰⁵

Ideally, this series of plans addressing interpretation programs, land protection, and long-range issues should guide the park in the coming years. For the first time, the park has defined, in writing, its goals, objectives, and prioritized issues.

304. Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, "Land Protection Plan, Sitka National Historical Park, Alaska," April 15, 1985: 17, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

305. "Sitka National Historical Park Resources Management Plan," 1985, and Chief, Division of Cultural Resources, Alaska Region, September 6, 1985, to Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, in files at Alaska Regional Office.

Public involvement and reaction to the park

Sitka residents have mixed feelings toward the national park. They are and have been interested in attracting tourists and consider the park and its programs excellent visitor attractions. When the blockhouse at the park was torn down Sitkans protested to the park service for reconstruction of another blockhouse. Residents, community groups, and the city government supported enlarging the park in the early 1970s. After the park acquired the Russian Bishop's House, however, the city denied park service applications to close Monastery Street and provide easements. Later, when city residents saw the galleries on the house redone to correct the unacceptable shrinkage of wood, some complained about how their tax dollars were being spent. Yet they are pleased that the building has been saved and is being restored. Many toured the building during the special Alaska Day festivities held at the house the past several years. Few Sitka residents have taken sides on the Indian River water rights issue.

Resource Issues

Visitor center and fort site

Shortly after the visitor center opened in 1965, permanent interpretive exhibits relating to the Tlingits, Russians, and the battle that the park commemorates, were placed in one wing of the building. Reginald Butcher from the Western Museum Laboratory and Edward Pilley from the Western Regional Office spent two weeks in March 1966 installing the exhibits. Sheldon Jackson Museum loaned the park 25 Tlingit pieces that were used in the display. These pieces will be returned to the museum when the new exhibits are installed in the visitor center. The park service staff hosted a preview of the exhibits for local Tlingits who provided information. A total of 842 people, most of whom were Sitka residents, attended the open house at the park the weekend after the exhibits were installed.³⁰⁶ Shortly after she began working at the park in 1969, Ellen Hope Lang arranged for three local

306. Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, March 1966, in Monthly Report Files at Sitka National Historical Park.

Tlingit clans to indefinitely but conditionally loan the park seven houseposts, a totem pole, a carved frog totem, dance robes, and other ceremonial clothing and objects. These pieces were placed on exhibit in the visitor center. After Sheldon Jackson Museum became the property of the State of Alaska in 1985, the museum loaned all of the Russian pieces in its collection to the park. A few are currently on display; others will become part of the Russian Bishop's House exhibits.

As the Alaska Native people became more politically active following passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971 and as people became more sensitive to objective interpretations of history, particularly with respect to ethnic minorities in the United States, the Sitka visitor center exhibits were revised. In 1978 the exhibit titled "The Massacre at Old Sitka--1802" was changed to "The Destruction of Old Sitka--1802" to be less one-sided.³⁰⁷ In 1979 the park contracted with Andrew Hope, a Sitka Tlingit, to write a manuscript about the totem poles at the park. Marilyn R. Knapp used the material compiled by Hope to write Carved History, the Totem Poles & House Posts of Sitka National Historical Park that was published by the Alaska Natural History Association for the park in 1983. Harpers Ferry Center designed new exhibits for the visitor center that will be installed in 1988.

In 1979 the park staff, with counsel from Denver Service Center and Harpers Ferry Center, established the park's policy regarding collections of artifacts and manuscripts. Although not actively collecting, the park had acquired a collection of artifacts and archival materials. There were 492 pieces for the Tlingit fort site and Redoubt St. Michael (Old Sitka) site. The latter site was excavated during the 1930s. Objects recovered included iron nails and spikes, tools and pieces of tools, ceramic fragments, bricks, and charcoal. The park also had a collection of 136 Indian baskets.

307. Memorandum to Associate Manager, Denver Service Center from Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, March 2, 1978, copy in files at Alaska Regional Office.

The collections policy stated that the park would conserve Native and Russian objects as opposed to restoring them. Major additions to the collection were not necessary. The park would accept donations, and on occasion, long term loan of items relating directly to the 1804 battle, items of Tlingit or Russian culture not represented in the park's collection, and items relating to the 1867 transfer of Alaska and the influence of American occupation on the Tlingits and the Russians. The policy statement suggested that the artifacts from the archeological sites (including excavations at the Russian Bishop's House) not selected for display be placed in storage or, in the case of the materials from Redoubt St. Michael, be turned over to the State of Alaska. During 1984, 1985, and 1986 the park received funding to work on the collections. More than 1,000 artifacts were cataloged and their condition assessed.

An addition to the visitor center for storage and exhibit of 12 totem poles was proposed by the park staff in 1979. The room was to hold 11 of the park's original totem poles and one totem carved as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps project during the 1930s. In the proposal the staff argued that a climate-controlled environment was needed to preserve the poles.³⁰⁸ Funds for the addition were not forthcoming. Instead, a storage shed behind the visitor center was constructed. A maintenance building was built behind the visitor center in 1978. It had a shop and garage on the first floor, and storage and museum office on the second floor.

The wooden footbridge over Indian River had been destroyed by the river in 1961. Responding to "numerous complaints," a new footbridge was designed by Romaine Hardcastle and built by the Neighborhood Youth Corps. On August 9, ten days after the footbridge was completed, a log jam broke in the river above the bridge and tore the bridge out.³⁰⁹ The present park footbridge,

308. Cook, John E., Director, Alaska Region, undated, to Regional Director, PNW.

309. Hardcastle, Romaine, Museum Technician, July 30 and August 27, 1966, to Superintendent, Sitka and Glacier Bay National Monuments, in Monthly Reports file at Sitka National Historical Park.

built of wood and concrete, that spans Indian River was constructed in 1968. In 1980 a new trail, called the "Battleground Trail," was added in the park. It went around the edge of the 1804 battle site. Employees hired under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) "loaned" to the park service from the U.S. Forest Service built the trail. Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company at Sitka donated the wood chips for the trail. To emphasize their importance to the park, the Tlingit fort site and the battle site were landscaped that same year. The fort site area was scarred from the trenches dug in 1970 for the totem pole treatment program. Park staff coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer who concurred with the park service's determination that the landscaping would not adversely impact the site.³¹⁰ Also in 1980, the park had a physical fitness trail installed on the north side trail.

Storm damage and erosion

Over the last twenty years, several storms have damaged the park's trails. An usually fierce storm on Thanksgiving Day, 1984, cause an estimated \$8,000 damage to the trails. Most recently, a storm early in 1987 damaged the trail and knocked down a number of trees in the park.

Erosion continued to threaten several of the park's resources. Offshore gravel-dredging operations in Sitka Sound, described in the preceding chapters, continued intermittently until 1978. In 1979 the owner of a trailer court just north of the park illegally put fill into Indian River to enlarge the size of his property. In 1980 he sought a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the action. Park service personnel objected to issuing the permit and argued that the action had accelerated erosion of the bank where the fort site was located. In 1981 the Corps of Engineers ordered the fill removed because the permitting process was not followed. The trailer court owner ignored the order. The results of all these actions was that the river

310. Edelstein, Sue, Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, December 12, 1979, to Area Director, Alaska, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

established a meander that intensified erosion of the bank adjacent to the Kiksadi fort site. The rate of erosion was two to eight feet annually. The park service's objections did prevent the several proposed gravel and sand operations for tideland areas near the park from receiving permits.³¹¹

The Sitka Native community wrote to the park superintendent about the erosion threat to the fort site in 1980 and again in 1982. In his 1982 letter, Frank O. Williams, Jr., President of the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center Board of Directors, expressed the opinion that the original purpose of the park, to commemorate the 1804 battle, was being ignored. He acknowledged that the money for the Russian Bishop's House was needed to prevent the loss of the structure and that the park service had new parks to administer at the same time that the erosion problem became acute. Nevertheless, he appealed for action to preserve the fort site.³¹² Sitka park service personnel asked for assistance. In 1982 Denver Service Center staff conducted an erosion control study. Various alternatives to control the problem were considered.

The alternative preferred by the National Park Service, protective rip-rap placed 50 percent in the river and 50 percent on the river bank aroused objections by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. That department wanted all rip-rap placed on the river bank. Its preferred stabilization method however, was the use of vertical steel sheet piling. Park service officials opposed the piling on the grounds that it would be unsightly, that bank soils could not adequately support it, and that it would provide only marginal and essentially unmeasurable benefit to spawning salmon, the vast majority of which spawned upstream of the

311. Denver Service Center, Environmental Assessment Indian River Erosion Control, June 1983: 2. See also Water Matters File, Sitka National Historical Park.

312. Williams, Frank O., Jr., Chairman, Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center Board of Directors, April 14, 1982, to Ernest Suazo, Sitka National Historical Park Superintendent, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

proposed rip-rap. In the end, Coastal Zone Management staff in the Office of Governor ruled in favor of the alternative preferred by the National Park Service.

In June 1985 contractors installed 4,600 cubic yards of toed-in armor shot-rock rip-rap and backfill along the river bank for stabilization. In his annual report for that year Superintendent Suazo wrote that the rip-rap replacement represented the "culmination of over 42 years of effort to properly stabilize the banks of the Indian River."³¹³ The next year 1,300 cubic yards of stones were scattered along the river bank for stabilization.

Water rights

Erosion proved to be less complicated than a Federal Reserved water rights issue challenging the park staff. In 1967 the park formally applied to the State of Alaska for a certificate of appropriation for Indian River instream flows on the basis of recreational use for that portion of the river that flows through the monument. The application asked for enough water for successful salmon spawning runs and aesthetic purposes. The park claimed a priority date of 1890.

No action was taken by the state on the park's application because a specific quantity of water was not requested and the stated use was in actuality a non-use, according to the 1966 State of Alaska Water Use Act. The park did not want water rights to divert, impound, or withdraw water, just a guaranteed instream flow. A minimum instream flow estimate of 35 cubic feet per second was proposed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the park service concurred with the figure.

In 1971 the superintendent wrote that the park's amended application had been denied. "The purpose was to assure an adequate water supply to preserve the aesthetics, the historic scene, and the salmon activity, which the river provides. Our application was denied because these are `non-consumptive uses.'

313. Suazo, Ernest J., Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, March 5, 1986, to Regional Director, Alaska Region, in Superintendent's Annual Reports files at Alaska Regional Office.

The City of Sitka uses Indian River for a water supply and Sheldon Jackson College uses it for emergency power generation. There is real danger that their maximum use of the water for these purposes could result in no water flow through the park."³¹⁴

The City and Borough of Sitka received a certificate of appropriation to 3.9 cubic feet per second of water from Indian River. The city's priority date, when it began taking Indian River water, was claimed to be 1914. In 1980, the State of Alaska denied the City and Borough of Sitka's request to increase its allocation of water from Indian River from 2,500,000 gallons (3.9 cubic feet per second) per day to 6,000,000 gallons per day. The reason given was that Indian River did not maintain adequate flow throughout the year to meet currently allocated water rights. Between 1982 and 1985 the City and Borough of Sitka constructed a new primary water line from Blue Lake. Indian River was relegated to a back-up source for the city's water.

Sheldon Jackson College received a certificate of appropriation to use 32,315,800 gallons (50 cubic feet per second) of water from Indian River per day for hydroelectric generation. The college's use of Indian River water for this purpose went back to 1914. In the early 1980s Sheldon Jackson College increased its use of Indian River water, although it did not exceed its state allocation. The college upgraded its dam and hydropower and hatchery intakes on the river. It was not the major upgrade contemplated in 1982, but did require more water. At that time, the college applied to the state for rights to 5 cubic feet per second of Indian River water for the salmon hatchery that had been in operation since 1975. The National Park Service objected, and argued that the college could legally dry up the lower river during certain periods of the year, adversely affecting the natural salmon spawning habitat of the lower river and the recreational and interpretive values of the park. The park service also argued that the college had never been issued a state certificate of appropriation for any water use associated with

314. Superintendent, Sitka National Monument, June 9, 1971, to General Superintendent, Alaska Group, in Sitka National Monument Proposed Additions file at Sitka National Historical Park.

aquaculture. Its third argument was that the college planned to raise chinook salmon, a species foreign to Indian River and one whose successful rearing would require a large quantity of year-round raceway water. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game also objected to the college's application, and it was not acted upon.

The park service appealed the state's 1971 decision not to approve its Federal Reserved water right application after amendments to the State Water Use Act were passed in 1980. Those amendments defined instream use of water as a beneficial use, clearing the way for certificates of appropriation to be issued for the purpose of instream flows of water. The park service argued that the park predated the other users of Indian River water. Its use dated to 1890. The college's hydroelectric system that was constructed in 1929 did not meet the college's current demands for electricity. The park added that the college's aquaculture program only began in 1975.³¹⁵

In 1985 park officials contracted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare a fishery instream flow quantification study that would be used in the adjudication process to determine water rights to Indian River. They also arranged with the Pacific Northwest Region of the National Park Service to prepare a complementary recreation and interpretation instream flow quantification study. The studies will document fishery, recreational, and interpretive values and impacts in the park, with reduced instream flows of Indian River water. However, in 1986 the water rights issue remained unresolved.³¹⁶

315. Hardy, Dave, Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, February 27, 1981, to Rick Reed, Habitat Protection, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in L54-Water Matters file at Sitka National Historical Park.

316. Suazo, Ernest J., Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, April 15, 1985, to Jerry L. Madden, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

Totem pole restoration

The Alaska State Museum, U.S. Forest Service, and Sitka National Monument cooperated in a major totem pole restoration project in 1971. A specialist, Joe W. Clark, from the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, recommended techniques to arrest decay of the totem poles.³¹⁷ At the park, the totems were taken down and treated. They were soaked in a preservative solution. To save money, monument officials allowed treatment pools to be dug on the former Indian fort site.

A program to copy the remaining seven original poles at the park and one of the Civilian Conservation Corps poles began in 1978. The National Park Service's cultural resources cyclic maintenance program provided funding to carve new poles. Carving the first pole cost \$4,000; the last \$22,000. The totems were carved by Alaska Natives at the park, and the carvers were asked to converse with visitors. The carvers were also required to use hand tools and traditional organic paints. Two poles were carved in 1978, one in 1979, one in 1980, two in 1984, and two in 1986. After the original poles were copied, the staff proposed to dry, treat, and if possible, display them. Facilities to display the original poles were not available, and a proposal to build a suitable area was not funded by the park service. Instead, the poles were placed in storage. At present, nine of the original poles are under partial shelter and one original pole is under full shelter.

In 1979 the park staff decided that they would not have third generation poles carved. They felt that the historic integrity would be lost if copies of copies were carved. They would continue to regularly treat the poles displayed at the park with preservative--a mixture of varnish, paraffin wax, and mineral spirits. As discussed above, the staff requested a controlled environment addition to the visitor center for storage, display, interpretation, and periodic curatorial treatment of the Brady-collected poles.³¹⁸

317. Rakestraw, 1981: 170.

An entirely new pole, the Bicentennial Pole, was added to the park during this recent period. Duane Pasco carved the 27-foot high pole in 1976. It depicts 200 years of Pacific Northwest coast Indian history. The design is in keeping with traditional form and style of Pacific Northwest Coast totemic art. The pole was placed in front of the visitor center.³¹⁹

Russian blockhouse

The reconstructed blockhouse in downtown Sitka continued to be an unresolved resource issue for the park service. At the time it was built in 1960, park service officials recommended that the building be transferred to the State of Alaska or be incorporated into the national monument as a detached unit.³²⁰ In 1964 the Bureau of Land Management gave the state a twenty-year lease to the property. Instead of accepting management, the state proposed that the park service consider expanding in Sitka and take the state's two historic sites there, Old Sitka Site and Castle Hill. The blockhouse was part of the plan proposed by the park service in the late 1960s to create a Blockhouse Hill unit of the park that would encompass 3.28 acres in downtown Sitka and include reconstructions of a portion of the stockade wall, second blockhouse, Native church, and several Tlingit community houses that had stood at Sitka in the 1860s. The blockhouse unit, however, was not included in the 1972 legislation that created the park and added the Russian Bishop's House.³²¹

318. "Totem Preservation Plan," 1979, in files at Sitka National Historical Park. Gary J., Also Candelaria, Gary J., personal communication, February 11, 1987.

319. Knapp, 1980: 6.

320. Hall, George A., Historic Structures Report, Part I, October 1970, in files of Sitka National Historical Park.

321. Sitka Committee for Development of Historic Sites, "A Plan for Redevelopment, Sitka Historical Sites," 1969, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

In 1970 the state relinquished the lease to the blockhouse land. Park service officials thought that if they maintained the blockhouse they should own the land. The best agreement that could be reached was a memorandum of understanding with the Bureau of Land Management that took effect on July 28, 1970, providing for park service management of the site. In 1976 the park service offered the blockhouse to the Alaska Division of Parks. The state agreed to the suggestion and applied to the Bureau of Land Management for a 25-year lease of the land. Staff of the Bureau of Land Management did not process the state application, however, and in 1981 the state notified the park service that because of declining budgets it would be unable to accept administration of the blockhouse and withdrew its lease application.

Still operating under the 1970 memorandum of understanding, the park service had a Youth Conservation Corps team clean up the blockhouse grounds and adjacent Russian graves and construct a trail at the site in 1983. The site is a law enforcement problem, exacerbated by its distance from the park. Sitka park staff continue to maintain the site at an estimated cost of \$1,500 per year.³²²

Questions about the blockhouse's historical integrity were raised. Nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 was tabled by the State Historic Sites Advisory Committee. The structure was a reconstruction, and not an accurate one for the site. It does, however, fit that part of the Sitka park's mission to interpret Tlingit-Russian relations in southeast Alaska.

Although not a replica of the blockhouse that stood on the site, the residents of Sitka consider the blockhouse a local landmark and tourist attraction. They had pressured the park service for a replica blockhouse when the 1926 one that stood in the park was demolished in 1959. The Sitka Committee for

322. Suazo, Ernest J., Park Superintendent, February 14, 1984, to Director, Alaska Region, in Superintendent's Annual Report files at Alaska Regional Office.

Development of Historic Sites was unhappy when the plan for reconstruction of historic structures on the rock outcropping where the blockhouse stands was dropped. Because of community feelings, the National Park Service has not proposed demolition of the structure as a management option.³²³

Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center

The Board of Indian Arts and Crafts, U.S. Department of the Interior, established an experimental Native arts program at Sitka in 1962. The board had been created by law in 1935 to promote the development of Indian arts and crafts. At Sitka, they hired talented Natives to demonstrate their arts and crafts and to develop new and upgraded craft products. When the National Park Service began planning a visitor center for Sitka National Monument in 1963, they agreed to have a wing of the center for the Indian arts and crafts program. The craftspeople moved in July 1965 to the visitor center.³²⁴

On February 24, 1968, the Board of Indian Arts and Crafts met at Sitka. At the time, the board operated programs at Sitka, at Nome, and at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. Board members present included Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. (with American Heritage in New York), Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Wilder (Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas), Mr. and Mrs. Royal Haserich (Lone Star Ranch, Colorado), and Lloyd L. New (Institute of American Indian Art, New Mexico). Others present included Robert G. Hart (general manager of the board, Washington, D.C.), George Fedoroff (Alaska manager for the board, Anchorage), Peter Seeganna (employee of the board, Sitka), Robert E. Howe (Superintendent of Sitka and Glacier Bay National Monuments), Raymond Geerdes (Park Historian, Sitka), and nine Tlingit community leaders--one from Hoonah, one from Juneau, seven from Sitka--including Ellen Hope Lang and Charles Olson who were employees of the National Park Service.

323. Spude, Robert L., Regional Historian, undated memorandum, to Associate Regional Director, Planning and Cultural Resources, Alaska Region, in files at Alaska Regional Office.

324. "Sitka Demonstration Workshop," Smoke Signals (1966): 6.

The Tlingit people presented their ideas to the board. They proposed to develop a program that would help the park interpret Tlingit culture and the Tlingit people preserve their traditional art. They asked the board to remove the Eskimo art program from the Sitka center's program. Most appealing to the board members and the park service staff was that Tlingit people would be interpreting their heritage. The Board of Indian Arts and Crafts asked the National Monument staff and representatives of the Tlingits to develop a plan. The board would serve in an advisory capacity, and provide funding to set up the program. It was assumed that the park service would take over funding the program after the transition.³²⁵

The Alaska Native Brotherhood, Sitka Camp No. 1, Raymond Nielson, President, submitted its proposal to Park Superintendent Howe on April 16, 1968. The proposal revised the agreement between the National Park Service and Board of Indian Arts and Crafts for use of the building to "use by Thlinget cultures for perpetuation of such art forms appropriate to historic cultures of Southeast Alaska."³²⁶ Approval from the park service and Board of Indian Arts and Crafts followed.

In 1969 the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center opened in the visitor center. The Sitka Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp provided teachers to demonstrate traditional southeast Native arts such as woodcarving, costume making, and silverworking to students and visitors. A.P. Johnson was the center's director from 1969 to 1971 and also an instructor. The park provided craft shop facilities and equipment. The Board of Indian Arts and Crafts allocated \$40,000 to the center over a three-year period.

325. Howe, Robert E., Superintendent, Sitka and Glacier Bay National Monuments, February 27, 1968, to Regional Director, Western Region, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

326. Kuehn, Dan R., Superintendent, Sitka National Monument, July 14, 1971, to Robert G. Hart, General Manager, Indian Arts and Crafts Board, in File A44/Cultural Center at Sitka National Historical Park.

Each participating organization viewed the center differently. To the Tlingits it was a place to teach and learn about their heritage; to the park service it provided Native arts and crafts demonstrations for visitors; and to the Board of Indian Arts and Crafts it was a living demonstration center.

The major obstacle to the program's success the first years was not the differing philosophies but lack of funds. The program expenses in 1971 were \$40,850, in 1972 were approximately \$20,000, and in 1973 were \$34,947. The teachers/demonstrators were paid \$3.00/hour, well below the wages of a seasonal laborer at the park who received \$4.62/hour.³²⁷

From the start the program was well received by the southeast Natives, the park service, and the public. The Tlingit people planned and conducted the program successfully and took great pride in the center. Many took classes which brought them to the park. The greater Sitka community supported the program. In 1971, the Sitka Borough School District contracted with the center to provide a cross-cultural studies program in the elementary schools. In 1972, the Sheldon Jackson College Native Studies program allowed students to take classes at the cultural center and receive college credit for them. This arrangement continued until 1985. The National Park Service got credit from the Tlingit community, the Board of Indian Arts and Crafts, and the public for making the cultural center project happen.

The center's program included a permanent demonstration and teaching staff of two or three instructors annually, and visiting artists. Woodworking, silversmithing, and costume making were the major areas of concentration. Courses were also offered in spruce root basket weaving, skin and beadwork, Native foods, Tlingit dancing, and anthropology. Esther Littlefield was the instructor/demonstrator in the costume department from the opening of the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center until her retirement in 1983. When Secretary of the Interior James Watt

327. Kuehn, Dan, Superintendent, Sitka National Monument, May 6, 1971, to Director, Pacific Northwest Region, in File A44/Cultural Center, Sitka National Historical Park.

visited the park on August 25, 1983, he presented Littlefield with a plaque on behalf of the National Park Service for her dedication and service.³²⁸ Over the years, the cultural center sponsored a number of special, short-term workshops. Probably the best known instructor was Nathan Jackson, wood carver, who carved several of the park's totem poles. The cultural center and park staff closely cooperated on carving of a Bicentennial pole in 1976. Items made at the center with materials provided by the center became the cultural center's property. Students were required to make two objects. One belonged to the student, the other to the center. Because of these arrangements, the center amassed a Tlingit art and craft collection.

In 1972 the National Park Service started funding the cultural center. That year a contract for \$41,000 was made with Alaska Native Brotherhood, Sitka Camp No. 1. The brotherhood appointed an Arts and Crafts Committee to supervise the program. The committee evolved into a five-member Cultural Center Board of Directors chosen by the brotherhood at their annual election of officers in October. Two park service employees, Ellen Hope Lang and then superintendent Daniel R. Kuehn served as voting members of the center's board of directors for several years. What later was viewed as conflict-of-interest, at the time was critical for the program's success.

The contract called for a minimum of 100 hours per week of cultural demonstration. A provision in the contract allowed for sale of items produced at the center. Proceeds from such sales would be returned to the center for the purchase of supplies, to pay visiting artists, or to send center staff members to outside cultural events. Later contracts were for up to \$80,800, and the center operated year-round. Recent cuts in the park's operating budget forced the park staff to reduce the contracts to \$40,000 for a four-month summer program.³²⁹

328. Suazo, Ernest, Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, February 14, 1984, to Director, Alaska Region, in Superintendent's Annual Reports file at Alaska Regional Office.

329. Candelaria, Gary J., personal communication, February 10, 1987.

The contracts, initially for three years and more recently for one year, issued by the National Park Service required a demonstration and interpretation program. The Alaska Native Brotherhood, Sitka Camp No. 1, viewed the center as a teaching center, with interpretation and demonstration to visitors as a secondary function. Over the years the different philosophies became more pronounced. The Board of Directors of the cultural center sought to change the name in 1981 from Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center to A.N.B. Cultural Center. The change was not made. At that time the Sitka park service staff asked itself and staff at the Alaska Regional Office whether or not the objectives of the park and cultural center were complimentary. Another concern was over issuing a sole source contract to the Alaska Native Brotherhood. Sitka staff held discussions with Alaska Regional Office staff and with the cultural center board. The issues remained unresolved. The cultural center board has been considering the possibility of acquiring land, building a center, and discontinuing its contract with the National Park Service.³³⁰

In 1986 the cultural center operated from June 1 to September 30. The Alaska Native Brotherhood, Sitka Camp No. 1, and the National Park Service signed a cooperative agreement allowing Tlingit craftspeople to use the space in the visitor center during the non-contract period. The Alaska Native Brotherhood, Sitka Camp No. 1, successfully competed in bidding for a contract for 1987.

Russian Bishop's House

At the same time that the park service undertook the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center program, they had started working on plans to expand the park's program to include interpreting the Russian period of Alaska's history. Plans included acquisition of the Russian Bishop's House and reconstructing structures around the Russian blockhouse.

After the January 2, 1966, fire that destroyed the Russian Orthodox cathedral, the congregation met for services in the Russian Bishop's House chapel. The building was in very poor shape, and the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska did not have the money needed to preserve the structure. The congregation elected to -----

330. Hays, Ellen Hope, personal communication, February 13, 1987; Can-
delaria, Gary J., personal communication, February 10, 1987.

reconstruct the cathedral instead of preserving the Russian Bishop's House. In 1968 the bishop approached the National Park Service about purchasing and restoring the house. In 1969, Bishop Theodosius moved from the house into a new residence.

Congress appropriated funds to purchase the Russian Bishop's House in 1972. The land and building acquisition cost \$106,000. In addition to the Russian Bishop's House, the park acquired two related buildings on the property, House 105 and the Old School. House 105 built in 1887 and moved to the lot in the late 1950s or early 1960s, had been rental housing for priests and their families who could not be accommodated in the Russian Bishop's House. The school was built in 1897 to alleviate lack of space in the Bishop's House.³³¹

Restoration work on the Russian Bishop's House began immediately after acquisition. In 1973 staff from Denver Service Center started background research and prepared measured drawings of the building. Because of the accelerating deterioration of the building, Congress appropriated \$50,000 in a Construction Appropriation Act in 1974 to the National Park Service for historical, archeological, and architectural advance planning studies for the house. At that time, park planners estimated that reconstruction costs would total \$1,244,000. The money appropriated, along with some unspent funds from other projects, was used to get the Russian Bishop's House restoration underway.³³²

During 1974 and 1975 staff at the Alaska Area Office completed two Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act compliance actions. The first was for acquisition and stabi-

331. Cloyd, Paul C. Historic Structure Reports for House 105 and the Old School: Administrative, Physical History and Analysis Sections (Denver: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1984): 3-4.

332. Acting Region Director, Pacific Northwest Region, April 14, 1976, to Director, National Park Service, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

lization of the Russian Bishop's House; the second was for archeological excavations at the site. Both actions were determined to have no adverse affect.³³³

In June 1975 archeologists from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks conducted excavations on the Russian Bishop's House property to determine if any of the foundations or building lines of the original galleries remained. In addition, artifacts recovered would help in interpretation of Russian Alaska. The ground was too disturbed to provide information about earlier foundations. Although the majority of artifacts recovered were construction items, a surprising number of kitchen pieces were found. Anne Shinkwin, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, author of the contract report, suggested that these pieces had been deposited with fill material after the original construction.³³⁴

Also in 1975, Joe Clark, the wood products pathologist who had worked on the totem pole restoration project at the park, studied the attic, foundation and crawl space, and the exterior walls.

Following this preliminary work, staff at the park began talking with city officials in 1976 about closing Monastery Street, adjacent to the house, and about easements. The most critical easement was for the purpose of regrading the site to improve drainage. Other easements were sought to preserve a visual corridor around the site. To date, none of the easements has been granted.³³⁵

Early in 1976 a study team met at the park and developed a multi-year stabilization and restoration plan for the Russian Bishop's House. It was agreed that restoration work would progress concurrently with background research studies. The team

333. Wall, Glennie, Denver Service Center, February 20, 1976, to Bill Brown, Alaska Regional Office, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

334. Shinkwin, Anne, "Archeological Excavations at the Russian Mission, Sitka, Alaska, 1975," in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

335. Brown, Bill, April 1, 1976, to files, in files at Sitka National Historical Park.

members included Hank Judd, Chief Historical Architect for the National Park Service; Ellen Hope Lang, Sitka National Historical Park; Gary Higgins, Clement Dressner, and Anthony Donald, Denver Service Center; and the Regional and Deputy Regional directors. The team anticipated that the project would be completed in Fiscal Year 1982.

The next year Zorro Bradley, archeologist with the National Park Service in Alaska, began archeological salvage on the insulation barriers in the ceilings of the first and second floors. The purpose was to determine if any architectural features from earlier years could be found. None was found. A variety of artifacts were recovered, however, including several Russian coins from ca. 1840-1850. Other archeological work preceded ground disturbance at the site for new utility lines or building foundations. In 1978 Dick Ping Hsu conducted archeological investigations along the north and south walls of the house. Craig Davis did some testing during 1982 in the proposed utility corridors at the site. He found a Russian period trash pit. Catherine Holder Blee conducted excavations under the Old School in 1983.

The artifacts and books were removed from the house in 1976 after agreement was reached between the park and the Orthodox Church in America. Three paintings that had been damaged by water leaking through the roof were sent to Harpers Ferry Center for immediate treatment. The rest of the artifacts were placed at Arrowhead Transfer and Storage in Sitka. The transfer company agreed to temperature and humidity controls in the storage area. The artifacts had been inventoried by Harpers Ferry Division of Museum Services personnel in 1974 and the library in 1975, but removal awaited conclusion of the loan/gift arrangement. Under terms of the agreement, the church took several items, among them a paper holding Russian soil and a small metal box that holds the relics of a saint. These items will be returned to the chapel when it is once again used for religious purposes. Later, textiles and other paintings removed from the house were sent to Harpers Ferry Center.³³⁶

336. Allen, Arthur C., Chief, Division of Museum Services, Harper's Ferry Center, February 20, 1976, to Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region, in files at Sitka National Historical Park; and Candelaria, Gary

Preliminary research, restoration and stabilization work on the house began in 1976. The floor planks on the first floor were removed, and where possible salvaged. The first floor partitions, of no historical significance to the restoration period, were removed. The roofing was replaced with temporary roll roofing and the chimneys were enclosed in plywood. One of the first activities was to install a fire alarm system in the house. The next year, workers removed the west gallery stairs and put plastic sheeting over the windows. Late in the year, workers began dismantling and recording the chimneys.

Beginning in 1977 and finishing in 1979, historical architects worked to document the interior wall and ceiling finishes. After documenting, the twentieth century finishes were removed. The nineteenth century paint colors and wallpaper finishes were studied to be authentically duplicated, and most of the finishes were removed.

During the summer of 1978 a scaffolding system for the major exterior restoration work was installed. The rotted, lower portions of the north and south wood walls were removed. The insulation layer beneath the chapel was also removed. Historical architect and project supervisor Randall A. Conrad from Denver Service Center directed the installation of a reinforced concrete foundation in 1979. The north and south walls were rehabilitated in 1980. The galleries were reconstructed and a metal roof added in 1981. Mechanical and electrical design followed.

James Mote, a historian with Denver Service Center, prepared three studies for the house. These were published as one document in August 1981. The reports included a historic resource study, historical data section of a historic structure report, and historic furnishings report. The studies provided background information to help the National Park Service plan for the use and interpretation of the Russian Bishop's House. The historic resource study provided information about the Russian-American Company, its establishment in Sitka and relations with the Na-

J., personal communication, February 11, 1987.

tives, and history of the Russian Orthodox Church in Sitka. The historic structure report provided information about the Russian Bishop's House specifically, its inhabitants and physical changes over the years. The final report was on furnishings. Specifically, the studies were to help the park carry out the programs defined in the park Interpretive Plan approved in October of 1976. In an addendum to the plan released in July 1979, the National Park Service said that "the integrity of the building to the period of restoration will be maintained above all other considerations."³³⁷ The planning team recommended that the exhibits in the Russian Bishop's House not require an interpreter to be present.

In March 1982 Denver Service Center released the "Historic Structure Report, Administrative Data Section, Architectural Data Section" prepared by Paul C. Cloyd based on a March 1977 report by Anthony S. "Tony" Donald. This report provided data on the physical attributes and condition of the Russian Bishop's House. The earlier report recommended that the Russian Bishop's House be restored to its 1867 appearance. Donald argued that more photographic, documentary, and physical information was available for this period than for earlier periods. It also involved less loss of building fabric than alternatives to restore the building to earlier periods. A great deal of additional documentary and physical information was obtained between 1977 and 1982. The later report recommended that the interior and exterior of the house be restored to their 1843-1853 appearance. The plan called for the first floor interior to be adaptively restored to its historic appearance in 1843-1853 and be used for exhibits. The second floor would be restored to the same period and furnished appropriately. At an August 1980 meeting, National Park Service personnel from the Alaska Regional Office, Sitka National Historical Park, and Denver Service Center judged that an 1843-1853 restoration was more suitable to the interpretive themes of the park.

337. Bishop's House & Old School - addendum to final interpretive plan, in files at Sitka National Historical Park: 3.

The planners decided that the Old School and House 105, both built later than the period to be interpreted by the Russian Bishop's House, would not be torn down. Instead, they would screen the house from adjacent more contemporary structures and would be used for support operations of the house. House 105 would be used for a shop area and storage. This was later revised to provide for offices and storage.

Throughout the years of construction, the National Park Service provided tours to the public. On Alaska Day, October 18, 1983, the park held a one-day open house. More than 900 people visited the site that day. In spring 1984 the park selected Rosemary Wagy to fill a less-than-full-time position to staff the Russian Bishop's House and open the building to visitors on a scheduled basis. That year approximately 20,000 visitors were guided through the building. As part of Sitka's Fourth of July and Alaska Day festivities in 1984 teas were hosted at the Russian Bishop's House. A living history program, an interview with Princess Maksoutov, wife of the last governor of Russian America, was developed. When Wagy resigned in 1985, however, the position was not refilled.³³⁸

Russian Bishop's House administration

Denver Service Center took the lead in the restoration of the Russian Bishop's House. Its staff included historical architects, archeologists, and historians. None had much experience with large, historic log structures. Although the log construction, detailing, and finishing of the house were typical of Russian wooden building techniques of the 1800s, they were unique on this continent. Another significant problem for Denver Service Center staff was preparation of planning reports at the same time stabilizaton and restoration work was underway.

The Sitka National Historical Park staff continued to staff the visitor center, maintain the totems and walkways, and oversee the cultural center. Additionally, they were involved in planning

338. Suazo, Ernest J., Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, January 24, 1985, to Regional Director, Alaska Region, in Superintendent's Annual Reports file, Alaska Regional Office.

for the restoration and interpretation of the Russian Bishop's House and called upon to assist Denver Service Center staff working on the project.

The Alaska Regional Office had the responsibility for the Section 106 compliance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Denver Service Center, however, would provide the recommendations for future actions to mitigate destruction of archeological and historical materials. Alaska Regional Office staff also participated in the Sitka park's planning.

The Harpers Ferry interpretation unit of the National Park Service was to design the exhibits for the first floor of the Russian Bishop's House and conserve many of the items in the Sitka park's collection. The wallpaper and installation of exhibits in the building is to occur in 1987. The completion of the restoration of the Russian Bishop's House was changed from 1982 to August 1, 1988.

With the different groups involved in the restoration project, conflicts were inevitable. In March 1981 the roles and authority of the parties involved in the project were clarified. It was agreed that Denver Service Center, with the approval or disapproval of the park and regional office staffs, would make design recommendations. The historical architect at the Alaska Regional Office would oversee day labor work and advise the park staff on design and construction control. Finally, all contacts between the government and the contractors would be through the appointed project supervisor only. Not unexpectedly, there have been problems with this arrangement, but for the most part the difficulties were resolved by the 1981 meeting.³³⁹

339. Conrad, Randall R. and Robert L. Carper, Denver Service Center, Trip Report, March 16, 1981, in files at Alaska Regional Office.

When completed, restoration of the Russian Bishop's House is expected to have cost five million dollars, more than three million dollars more than initially estimated. The costs to date have totalled \$3,346,000.

Conclusion

Sitka National Historical Park changed a great deal in the last twenty years. What is regarded as a definitive solution to the Indian River erosion control problem was completed. More people annually visited the park. The park offered more programs for visitors: interpretive exhibits and slide and film programs in the visitor center that was new at the start of this period, the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center, and improved trails through the park. The park expanded its purpose to interpret the Russian period of Alaska's history, and within the next year it should complete the fifteen-year long Russian Bishop's House restoration project. The park staff increased in numbers during this recent period, although today it is smaller than it was three years ago. A superintendent is permanently stationed at the park. With completion of the Russian Bishop's House restoration, the question "what's next" begs for an answer.





Visitor Center, Sitka National Historical Park, 1983. (National Park Service photo)

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Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix A - Chronology of Significant Documents/Key Legislation

APPENDIX A
CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS/KEY LEGISLATION

<u>Documents and/or Legislation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Result</u>
Commissioners Recommendations	04/01/1890	set aside public park	recommendation
Governor's/Secretary of Interior 's Recommendations	06/09/1890	set aside public park	proclamation
Presidential Proclamation (unnumbered) by Benjamin A. Harrison	06/21/1890	set aside public park	Indian River Park
Presidential Proclamation No. 959 by William H. Taft (36 Stat. 2601)	03/23/1910	establish Sitka Nat- Monument	Sitka National Monument
Presidential Proclamation No. 2965 by Harry S.Truman (66 Stat c22)	02/25/1952	add in- holdings to monument	additions
An act to authorize certain additions to the Sitka National Monument in the State of Alaska and for other purposes PL 92-501 (86 Stat. 904)	10/18/1972	add Russian Bishop's House, re- designate as national historical park	Sitka National Historical Park

APPENDIX B
COPIES OF SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS/KEY LEGISLATION

(see A for list of documents/legislation)

HENRY E. HAYDON,
Clerk,
Ex-Officio Secretary and
Treasurer.

District of Alaska,

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Clerk's Office.

Sitka, April 1st 1890.
Honorable C. Knapp,
Governor of Alaska.

Sir:- I have the honor to hand you herewith
the report of the Commissioners appointed by
you to designate certain lands in Sitka and
its vicinity which in their judgment should
be reserved for public use.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
Henry E. Haydon.

Hon Henry E. Hayden

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Sitka Alaska

Dear Sir-

Please find enclosed report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of Alaska February 1st 1890 for the purpose of designating what grounds and buildings should be reserved by and for the use of the Government of the United States.

Also a map kindly made for the Commission by Mr. Edwin Chamberlain Deputy United States Collector of Customs at this Port. We had no surveyors compass or instruments by which a perfectly correct survey could be made. But the measurements are correct and the boundaries are plainly marked so that no mistakes need be made by any one. The numbers on the map point out the buildings correctly and the red lines show the boundaries of the Reservation.

Hoping that this will be satisfactory to His Excellency and beneficial to all the people of Alaska I remain

Yours Respectfully

James Breakley

Wrangell March 28 1890

(copy)

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Hon. Lyman E. Knapp.
Governor of Alaska.

Sir:-

The Commissioners appointed by you on February 1st. 1890 "to examine and report as to what lands in and about Sitka Alaska, should be permanently reserved by the Government for its uses, for public buildings, barracks, parade grounds, parks, wharves, coaling stations or other purposes defining and describing the same and indicating the purposes for which they should be reserved," have the honor to make the following report.

We were confronted at the outset with one difficulty. There is, at this time no land surveyor in Sitka, and we anticipated some trouble in locating such property as we might wish to designate for reservation, but it was agreed between us, at our first meeting, that the "map of the settlement at New Archangel Sitka accompanying a letter from General Lovell H. Rousseau dated December 5th. 1867 with inventories, published in House Executive Document No 125, 40th. Congress 2d. Session, signed by Alexis Pestchouroff Russian Commissioner, and Lovell H. Rousseau, United States Commissioner, copies of which documents, certified by Honorable F. F. Bayard Secretary of State on June 17th. 1887, and in the custody of the Clerk of the United States District Court here, should be used by us in making reservations and designating the same, and their limits, as far as it was possible to do so. With the aid of these documents we have been able to locate and designate definitely, all of the public buildings, and much of the land described by us in this report, as desirable for reservation.

It is recommended by the Commissioners that the property designated on the Certified Map and inventories as a "Wharf", together with the Warehouse Marked No 1, being on the approach to the said Wharf, be reserved to the Government for its uses, and for the legitimate uses and privileges of the residents of Sitka generally.

It is recommended by the Commissioners that the buildings designated on the Map and inventories as No 3 and No 15 be reserved for the following purposes viz; No 3 as a Coal Shed for Naval Vessels:- No 15 as a Store house for Naval supplies during such time as it may be necessary for said Buildings to be so used.

It is also recommended by the Commissioners that all the land covered and included in the following description be reserved for a Custom House or such other purpose as may be deemed necessary for the public service viz:

Commencing at a point thirty feet from the North West Corner of Building designated on Map and inventories as No 6

thence along Lincoln Street to low water mark in the Bay: thence following the shore line at low water mark in a South Easterly direction to a point outside of a rocky point running into the Bay: thence in a North Easterly direction to a point at right angles from the place of beginning: thence in a North Westerly direction to the place of beginning on Lincoln Street. Meaning to include with other land, all of these lots designated on the Map by Numbers 2, 3, and 5 and part of lot No. 4.

It is recommended by the Commissioners that the plot of ground marked No. 20 on the map but more particularly described as follows:—commencing at the Northern corner of that plat of ground which we heretofore ask shall be reserved as a public Common, and now known as the "parade ground," near the Presbyterian Church and running North 35° East 64, 68 feet thence West 35° North 59, 73 feet, thence North 39° East 87, 79 feet, to a road 26, 40 feet wide crossing this and continuing the line (N 39° E.) 59, 40 feet: thence East 39° South 104, 28 feet, thence South 30° West 46, 20 feet to a road 26, 40 feet wide, thence on South side of said road East 30° South 86, 64 feet, thence South 29° West 111, 54 feet, thence West 4° North 150, 40 feet to point of starting, for a Marine or Military barracks and garden. Provided however, that within three years from the date of this report a building shall be erected at the expense of the United States upon said land for the occupation of said Marine or Military force, and if not erected within that time then this reservation if made, to be abandoned and the land to become part of the public domain, subject to entry and purchase as may be provided by any Land Laws then in force in this district.

It is also recommended by the Commissioners that all of that plat of ground bounded on the North West side of Lincoln Street from Warehouse designated No. 1 on Map and inventories and along Lincoln Street and the shore line to the Southern Corner of the fence enclosing House designated No. 24 on the Map and inventories, thence along the walk in a North Westerly direction fronting Lot No. 20, and Government School No. 2, to the North West Corner of Plat designated on the Map and inventories No. 18, thence in a South Westerly direction to Water front, most of which is now known as the parade ground be hereafter set apart and reserved as a public common.

It is also recommended by the Commissioners that all that plat of ground designated on Map and inventories as No. 103 now occupied in part by United States Government School No. 1 be reserved for School purposes. Also for like purposes, that plat of ground described as follows:—beginning at the South East corner of Lot designated on Map and inventories as No. 18 in a North East direction to the North West Corner of plat marked "I" on Map and inventories, thence in a South

East direction to the South West Corner of Said plat marked "I", thence in a South Westerly direction to line of the land asked herein to be reserved as a public common upon which is United States ^{Governor's} ~~public~~ School No 2.

It is also recommended by the Commissioners that the Block House marked "C" on Map and inventories be reserved for public ~~services~~ including a space of ground One hundred feet square surrounding the same.

Also the Block House marked "D" on said Map and inventories including a space of land described as follows: begining at a point on the North West corner of the street running East and West from the House now occupied by the Governor and the road leading North from said street to the Russian Cemetery, thence North 50° West 660 feet West 36° South 363 feet, to be reserved for public buildings for the civil service.

It is also recommended by the Commissioners that the land upon which were situated the buildings designated on the Map as Nos. 116, 117 and 118 and more particularly described as follows: to wit: Commencing at a point 28 feet from the North West Corner of the main building situated on American St. now occupied by Rueben Albertson as a Hotel and running thence in a Northernly direction 123 feet to the line of a street or road, thence along said street or road 224 feet in an Easterly direction to certain fence posts, thence South Easterly 109 feet to the line of an old fence, thence in a Westerly direction 197 feet to the place of beginning, to be reserved for a Governors House or such other occupancy as may be deemed best by the general Government.

Also ten acres of land including that now designated on the plat of land as surveyed and claimed by Rev. Sheldon Jackson for the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions as the same appears of record in the office of the Recorder Ex Officio for this district, and marked "Military Cemetery", and more particularly described as follows: to wit: beginning at Corner mark No VIII on said plat, running North Westerly 660 feet, thence North Easterly 660 feet containing ten acres more or less, to be reserved for a Military and Naval Cemetery.

In connection with this reservation we would recommend that the road leading to said cemetery from Lincoln Street be made straight at a continuous width of 50 feet from the ~~place~~ fence forming the Western line of the lands enclosed by the Presbyterian Mission.

We would also recommend for reservation as a public park all that plat of ground, bounded on the West by the line as established by the survey made for the Presbyterian Mission, as above referred to, and along the shores line of the Bay at low tide to the mouth of the Indian River, and across the mouth of said River, along its right bank for an average width of 500 feet along said bank, to the point known as Indian River Falls: and also on the left bank of said river

from said falls, an average width of 200 feet from said falls to the Eastern line or boundry as shown on the Mission plat.

Also all of that stream of water, running into Jamestown Bay on the South side thereof, on Baranoff Island now used for watering purposes by the United States Navy, and Mercantile Vessels:—and that 250 feet on each side of said stream be reserved for a wharf, and such other purposes as may be necessary for the Naval and Marine of the United States, and that this reservation be so made that the water of said stream, nor any part thereof shall be directed from its original channel for any private enterprise.

We would also recommend that all of that Island situated directly opposite the town of Sitka, known as "Japonsky" Island be reserved for Naval and Military purposes. This Island on account of its location, the depth of water surrounding it, and its other natural advantages, is peculiarly adapted for Government uses.

In connection with this recommendation, we would suggest, that any party who now has permanent improvements upon the Island, be remunerated for any loss sustained by reason of its being reserved and occupied for the purpose above set forth, such remuneration to be estimated upon the apparent value of such improvements as the same may appear at the date of this report. Your Commissioners believe that at this time the maximum value of such improvements do not exceed One thousand Dollars.

We have the honor to be with great respect

Your obt. servants

Henry E. Haydon.

O. W. Farenholt U. S. Navy.

John G. Brady.

Commissioners.

Sitka Alaska

March 31. 1890.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

J. B. McN.
J. B. McN.

WASHINGTON,

3721-1890.

June 14th 1890

The President,

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication from the Governor of Alaska, dated April 2, 1890, enclosing the several reports of commissioners appointed by him to examine and report as to what lands in and about Sitka, Juneau, Douglas Island, and Fort Wrangel should be permanently reserved by the government for its uses for public buildings, barracks, parade grounds, parks, wharves, coaling stations, etc., and recommending that the reservations therein reported upon be made. These reports were made in accordance with the suggestion from this Department, that it be ascertained what tracts are needed by the government and for what purposes, and that the Governor communicate his views to the head of the department having control of the matters for which the proposed reservation is to be made, in view of the possibility that Congress may at the present session extend the public land laws over Alaska.

J. B. McN.

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I approve of the recommendations of the Governor with three exceptions. He recommends that Lots 1,2,3,7 and 8 in Block 7, Juneau, and all of Block "C" in said town, be set aside for garrison purposes; but it is stated by the commissioners that these tracts were declared by the district court for the district of Alaska, to have been reserved for garrison purposes by the Navy Department. If this be true it will not be necessary to declare a further reservation of these tracts. But it appears that there are certain settlers on these tracts, and the commissioners recommend that they be paid for their improvements placed thereon in good faith. In this connection I call attention to the "Act providing a civil government for Alaska," (25 Stats.,24) which provides in section eight that Indians or other persons in said Territory "shall not be disturbed in the possession of any lands actually in their use or occupation or now claimed by them but the terms under which such persons may acquire title to such lands is reserved for future legislation by Congress." This enactment would seem to debar the Executive from taking

any action calculated to disturb any such settlers, and, if the tracts had not been reserved for naval purposes, would furnish sufficient reason for disapproving this recommendation of the Governor.

The Governor recommends that Lots 7 and 8, in Block 9, as per plat of G.C.Hanus, Juneau, be reserved for courthouse and jail purposes, and that a certain unnumbered block on the north side of Douglas City be reserved for like purposes. As it appears these tracts are in possession of settlers the recommendation is disapproved. He recommends that certain tracts in Sitka be reserved for a marine or military barracks, on condition that the United States shall erect certain buildings thereon. This reservation I suggest be made without condition. The reservation for a military cemetery, as recommended by the Governor, seems to be "claimed" for the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. The nature of the claim is not stated. However as Congress has provided in said act of May 17, 1884, supra, that land in said Territory occupied as a missionary station shall be continued in such occupancy, to the extent of 160 acres for each such station, until further action by Congress, I am of opinion this reser-

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May 2, 1904

vation should be declared, subject to the rights of said Board of Home Missions therein. ✓

I therefore recommend that the following described tracts of land be reserved from settlement and disposal and set apart for the purposes hereinafter mentioned:

Juneau and Douglas City.
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In the town of Juneau, all that tract or block numbered 23, as per plat of said town made by G.C. Manus, except Lots 5 and 6, for public school purposes; the island, called Juneau Island, situated in Gastineaux Channel, opposite the town of Douglas City, as a coaling station and government wharf; the unnumbered block on the north side of the town of Douglas City, upon which is situated the public school building, for public school purposes.

Fort Wrangel.

In the town of Fort Wrangel, a tract of land, containing about four acres, upon which are the buildings now occupied

by the civil government, and embraced in the following description: Beginning on the south side of Main street, at the northwest corner of the warehouse occupied by Sylvester and Reid; thence in a northwesterly direction by lands occupied by Rufus Sylvester, two hundred and ten feet to a post in picket fence; thence in a northeasterly direction along said picket fence, old Stockade Block House and lands occupied by Rufus Sylvester, two hundred and fourteen feet to a post; thence in a northwesterly direction at a right angle with aforesaid line by lands of the United States, two hundred and forty feet to a post; thence in a southwesterly direction and parallel with the northwest wall of the old Fort and forty feet distant from said wall by lands of the United States, five hundred and fifty feet to low tide water-mark; thence along low tide water-mark in a southeasterly/direction by the sea, four hundred and fifty feet, to the south side of Main street; thence along south side of Main street to place of beginning.

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Sitka.

The following tracts in the town of Sitka, designated by numbers hereinafter referred to as they appear on the map of the settlement at New Archangel, Sitka, accompanying a letter from General Lovell H. Rousseau, Commissioner for the United States, and Alexis Pestchouroff, Commissioner for Russia, published in House Executive Document No. 125, 40th Cong., 2nd Session, to wit:

The property designated as a "Wharf," together with the Warehouse marked No. 1, situated on the approach to said wharf, for the legitimate uses and purposes of the public.

Also that tract of land described as follows: Commencing at a point thirty feet from the northwest corner of Building designated on map and inventories as No. 6, thence along Lincoln street to low water-mark in the Bay; thence following the shore line up low water-mark in a southeasterly direction to a point outside of a rocky point running into the Bay; thence in a northeasterly direction to a point at right angles from the place of beginning; thence in a northwesterly

direction to the place of beginning on Lincoln street, meaning to include with other land all of those lots designated on the map by numbers 2,3, and 5, and part of lot number 4, for a custom house, and other uses in the collection of customs.

Also the plot of ground marked No.20 on the map but more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the northern corner of that plat of ground which we hereafter ask shall be reserved as a public common, and now known as the "parade ground," near the Presbyterian Church, and running North 33° East 64.68 feet, thence west 35° north 59.73 feet, thence north 39° east 87.79 feet, to a road 26.40 feet wide, crossing this and continuing the line (north 39° east) 59.40 feet; thence east 39° south 104.28 feet, thence south 30° west 46.20 feet to a road 26.40 feet wide, thence on south side of said road east 30° south 36.46 feet, thence south 29° west 111.54 feet thence west 4° north 150.40 feet to point of starting, for a marine or military barracks and garden.

Also all of that plot of ground bounded on the north-west side by Lincoln street from Warehouse designated No.1 on map and inventories and along Lincoln street and the shore line to the southern corner of the fence enclosing House designated No.24 on the map and inventories; thence along the

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walk in a northwesterly direction fronting Lot No.20, and Government school No.2, to the northwest corner of plot designated on map and inventories No.18; thence in a southwesterly direction to Water front, most of which is now known as the parade ground, for a public common .

Also that plot of ground designated on said map as number 103, now occupied in part by government school number 1, and the plot of ground described as follows: beginning at the southeast corner of Lot designated on map and inventories as No.18, in a northeast direction to the northwest corner of plot marked "I" on map and inventories ; thence in a southeast direction to the southwest corner of said plot marked "I"; thence in a southwesterly direction to line of the land herein to be reserved as a public common, for school purposes.

Also the Block House marked "C" on map and inventories, for public services, including a space of ground one hundred feet square surrounding the same.

Also the Block House marked "D" on said map and inventories, including a space of land described as follows: beginning at a point on the northwest corner of the street

running east and west from the House now occupied by the Governor and the road leading north from said street to the Russian Cemetery; thence north 50° west 660 feet west 36° south 363 feet, south 50° east 660 feet, east 36° north 363 feet, for public buildings for the civil service.

Also the land upon which were situated the buildings designated on the map as Nos. 116, 117, and 118, and more particularly described as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point twenty-eight feet from the northwest corner of the main building, situated on American street, now occupied by Rueben Albertstone as a Hotel, and running thence in a northerly direction one hundred and twenty-three feet to the line of a street or road; thence along said street or road two hundred and twenty-four feet in an easterly direction to certain fence posts; thence southeasterly one hundred and nine feet to the line of an old fence; thence in a westerly direction one hundred and ninety-seven feet to the place of beginning, for a Governor's House, or such other occupancy as may be deemed best by the general government.

Also ten acres of land, including that now designated on the plat of land as surveyed and claimed by Rev. Sheldon Jackson for the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, as the same appears of record in the office of the Recorder ex officio, for this district, and marked "Military Cemetery," and more particularly described as follows, to wit: Beginning at corner mark No.VIII on said plat, running northwesterly six hundred and sixty feet;thence at right angles southwesterly 660 feet, thence southeasterly 660 feet, thence northeasterly six hundred and sixty feet, containing ten acres more or less, for a military and naval cemetery, subject to any rights which said Board of Home Missions may have.

Also two hundred and fifty feet of land on each side of the stream of water running into Jamestown Bay on the south side thereof on Baranoff Island now used for watering purposes by the United States navy and mercantile vessels,for a wharf, and such other purposes as may be necessary for the uses of the United States navy and mercantile marine;also all of that island situated directly opposite the town of Sitka known as Japonsky Island for naval and military purposes.

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The tract of land bounded on the west by the line as established by the survey made for the Presbyterian Mission, and along the shore line of the Bay at low tide to the mouth of Indian River, and across the mouth of said river and along its right bank for an average width of 500 feet, along said bank to the point known as Indian River Falls, and also on the left bank of said river from said Falls, an average width of 200 feet, from said Falls to the eastern line or boundary as shown on the Mission plat, for a public park.

Herewith I enclose a copy of the opinion of the Assistant Attorney-General for this Department touching the legal points involved, which meets with my approval.

Very respectfully,

John W. Foster
Secretary.

June 24th, 1890.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, the above-described tracts of public land in the Territory of Alaska are hereby reserved for the uses and purposes indicated by the Secretary, until otherwise directed by Congress.

Wm. H. Hunt

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix B - Significant Documents/Copies of Key Legislation

Presidential Proclamation (unnumbered)
by Benajmin A. Harrison, 06/21/1890

(see bottom of previous page)

70. Sitka National Monument

Establishment: Proclamation (No. 959) of March 23, 1910.....

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

[No. 959—Mar. 23, 1910—36 Stat. 2601]

WHEREAS, within the limits of the public park created by proclamation June 21, 1890, near Sitka, Alaska, is located the decisive battle ground of the Russian conquest of Alaska in 1804, and also the site of the former village of the Kik-Siti tribe, the most warlike of the Alaskan Indians; and that here also are the graves of a Russian midshipman and six sailors, killed in the conflict, and numerous totem poles constructed by the Indians, which record the genealogical history of their several clans, and

WHEREAS, under the general laws of Alaska it has been found difficult to prevent vandalism within the reserved area,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William H. Taft, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power vested in me by Section two of the Act of Congress approved June 8, 1906, entitled, "An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities", do hereby set aside, subject to any vested right, as the Sitka National Monument, a tract of land near Sitka, Alaska, situated within, or chiefly within, the public park which embraces the mouth of Indian River and adjacent territory, created by proclamation of June 21, 1890, the same being more definitely located and described as follows:

Beginning at corner No. 2 of the Presbyterian Mission site on the easterly side thereof; thence north twenty-four degrees, fifty-four minutes east, along the line of said mission tract, crossing Indian River, to a point seven chains and fifty-eight links from the right bank of said river; thence south forty-two degrees east, thirty-three chains and eighty-five links, to a point north fifty-one degrees, thirty minutes east, ninety-one links from a post on high tide line designated "Haley's Initial Post"; thence south fifty-one degrees, thirty minutes west, crossing the mouth of Indian River to a pine tree on Indian Point; thence following the meanders of the high tide line of Sitka Bay southwesterly and northwesterly to the place of beginning; embracing approximately fifty-seven acres of land, as shown upon the diagram hereto attached and made a part of this proclamation.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure or destroy any feature of this National Monument, or to locate or settle upon any of the lands reserved by this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the city of Washington this 23rd day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ten, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-fourth.

WM. H. TAFT.

By the President:
P. C. KNOX,
Secretary of State.

SITKA NATIONAL MONUMENT

ALASKA

Embracing a tract of land which includes the mouth of Indian River and adjacent territory near Sitka, containing about fifty seven acres.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Fred Dennett, Commissioner

REDEFINING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SITKA NATIONAL MONUMENT ALASKA

February 25, 1952
[No. 2965]

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS errors have been discovered in the description of the area now constituting the Sitka National Monument, Alaska, as contained in Proclamation No. 959 of March 23, 1910 (36 Stat. 2601), establishing the said monument; and

WHEREAS a certain tract of land adjoining the said monument has been donated to the United States to provide a suitable entrance to the monument, and a certain tract of public land near the monument is needed for the administration thereof; and

WHEREAS certain privately-owned lands adjoining the said monument are needed for the administration and protection thereof, and the United States desires to acquire such lands for such purposes; and

WHEREAS it appears that it would be in the public interest to redefine the boundaries of the Sitka National Monument (1) to correct the above-mentioned errors of description, (2) to add to the monument the said tract donated to the United States and the said tract of public land, and (3) to include within the boundaries of the monument the said privately-owned lands, with a view to making such lands parts of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States:

Sitka National
Monument.
Boundaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY S. TRUMAN, President of the United States of America, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 2 of the act of Congress approved June 8, 1906, 34 Stat. 225 (16 U. S. C. 431), do proclaim that, subject to valid existing rights, (1) the lands now owned by the United States within the exterior boundaries of the following-described tracts of land shown on the diagram attached hereto and hereby made a part hereof shall constitute the Sitka National Monument, and (2) the privately-owned lands within such boundaries shall become parts of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States:

TRACT No. 1

Beginning at corner No. 1, M. C., of U. S. Survey No. 1258, which is corner No. 2 of U. S. Survey No. 407, Tract B, on the west shore of Baranof Island on Sitka Bay, Alaska, at mean high tide, in latitude $57^{\circ} 02' 45''$ N., longitude $135^{\circ} 19' 56''$ W., from which U. S. R. L. M. No. 1 bears N. $79^{\circ} 08' 10''$ W., 3,965.61 ft. distant.

From the initial point,
With U. S. Survey No. 407, Tract B, meanders of Sitka Bay,
S. $72^{\circ} 42'$ W., 236.28 ft.,
N. $60^{\circ} 18'$ W., 153.78 ft.,
S. $73^{\circ} 34'$ W., 39.38 ft. to east line of Kelly Street, as delineated on Mission Plat Addition to Town of Sitka dated June 14–21, 1923, produced southerly:
Thence with street lines as delineated on said Mission Plat Addition to Town of Sitka, and, as enumerated hereinafter,
Along east line of Kelly Street, produced southerly,
N. $20^{\circ} 21'$ E., 51.41 ft. to south line of Lincoln Street,
Along south line of Lincoln Street,
S. $80^{\circ} 44'$ E., 97.12 ft.,
S. $89^{\circ} 58'$ E., 140.09 ft. to east line of Metlakahtla Street,
Along east line of Metlakahtla Street,
N. $23^{\circ} 46'$ E., 528.47 ft. to south line of a road leading to Indian River,
Along south line of said road,
N. $71^{\circ} 06'$ E., 190.66 ft., more or less;

Thence leaving the said road, with northeast line of Lot 1, Block IV of aforementioned plat.

S. 28° 49' E., 22.85 ft., more or less, to a point in the west line of U. S. Survey No. 1258 and east line of U. S. Survey No. 407, Tract B:

Thence with the exterior boundaries of U. S. Survey No. 1258 to the hereinafter enumerated corners,

N. 25° 18' E., 513.34 ft., crossing Indian River to corner No. 6,

S. 42° 00' E., 1,805.10 ft. to corner No. 7,

S. 30° 00' E., 673.86 ft. to corner No. 8, M. C., at mean high tide of Sitka

Bay;

Thence with the meanders of Sitka Bay,

N. 65° 38' W., 123.42 ft.,

N. 10° 00' W., 142.56 ft.,

N. 76° 54' W., 66.00 ft.,

S. 9° 21' W., 88.44 ft.,

N. 52° 08' W., 224.40 ft.,

S. 71° 50' W., 234.96 ft.,

S. 12° 45' W., 85.80 ft.,

S. 39° 28' E., 169.62 ft.,

S. 9° 13' E., 62.04 ft.,

S. 59° 51' W., 204.60 ft.,

N. 82° 45' W., 328.68 ft.,

S. 59° 49' W., 364.32 ft.,

N. 67° 35' W., 67.98 ft.,

N. 37° 35' W., 359.04 ft.,

N. 24° 17' W., 448.14 ft.,

N. 15° 25' W., 292.38 ft.,

N. 30° 54' W., 284.46 ft. to corner No. 1, M. C., the place of beginning.

The tract as described contains 53.454 acres, more or less.

TRACT No. 2

Beginning at corner No. 6 of U. S. Survey No. 2545, which is corner No. 9 of U. S. Survey No. 407, Tract B, corner No. 2 of U. S. Survey No. 1473, corner No. 4 of U. S. Survey No. 1804, and corner No. 1 of U. S. Survey No. 1558, from which U. S. R. L. M. No. 1 bears S. 66° 28' 53" W., 3,170.64 ft. distant, and corner No. 1, M. C., of U. S. Survey No. 1258 bears S. 26° 08' 06" E., 2,241.36 ft. distant.

From the initial point with south line of U. S. Survey No. 2545 and north line of U. S. Survey No. 1804, this line being north line of Observatory Road, so-called,

N. 15° 45' W., 35.74 ft., more or less, to the true point of beginning, thence

N. 60° 22' W., 260.00 ft.;

Thence leaving south line of U. S. Survey No. 2545 and continuing along north line of said road,

N. 32° 38' W., 105.00 ft.,

Thence leaving the said road.

N. 70° 22' E., 213.60 ft. to a point in the west line of U. S. Survey No. 1558;

Thence with the west line of U. S. Survey No. 1558,

S. 15° 45' E., 300.01 ft. to the true point of beginning.

The tract as described contains 0.880 acres, more or less.

The said Proclamation No. 959 of March 23, 1910, is amended accordingly.

Executive Order No. 8854 of August 16, 1941, reserving the lands comprising the said Tract No. 2 and other lands for the use of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Department of Commerce, as a magnetic and seismological observatory site, is hereby revoked as to the lands comprising the said Tract No. 2.

The Director of the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall have the supervision, management, and control of this monument, as provided in the act of August 25, 1916, ch. 408, 39 Stat. 535 (16 U. S. C. 1-3), and acts supplementary thereto or amendatory thereof.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

36 Stat., Pt. 2,
p. 2601.

3 CFR, 1943 Cum.
Supp., p. 984.

Supervision and
management.

DONE at the City of Washington this 25th day of February in
the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty-two, and
[SEAL] of the Independence of the United States of America the
one hundred and seventy-sixth.

HARRY S TRUMAN

By the President:

JAMES E. WEBB

Acting Secretary of State.

Public Law 92-501

October 18, 1972
[S. 1497]

AN ACT

To authorize certain additions to the Sitka National Monument
in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

Sitka National
Monument,
Alaska.
Additional
lands; name
change.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to preserve in public ownership for the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations of Americans an area which illustrates a part of the early history of the United States by commemorating czarist Russia's exploration and colonization of Alaska, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire by donation, purchase, or exchange, for addition to the Sitka National Monument, the lands and interests therein, and improvements thereon, including the Russian mission, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Additions, Sitka National Monument, Sitka, Alaska" numbered 314-20,010-A, in two sheets, and dated September 1971, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Lands and interests in lands within such area owned by the State of Alaska or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may erect permanent improvements on lands acquired by him from the State of Alaska for the purposes of this Act.

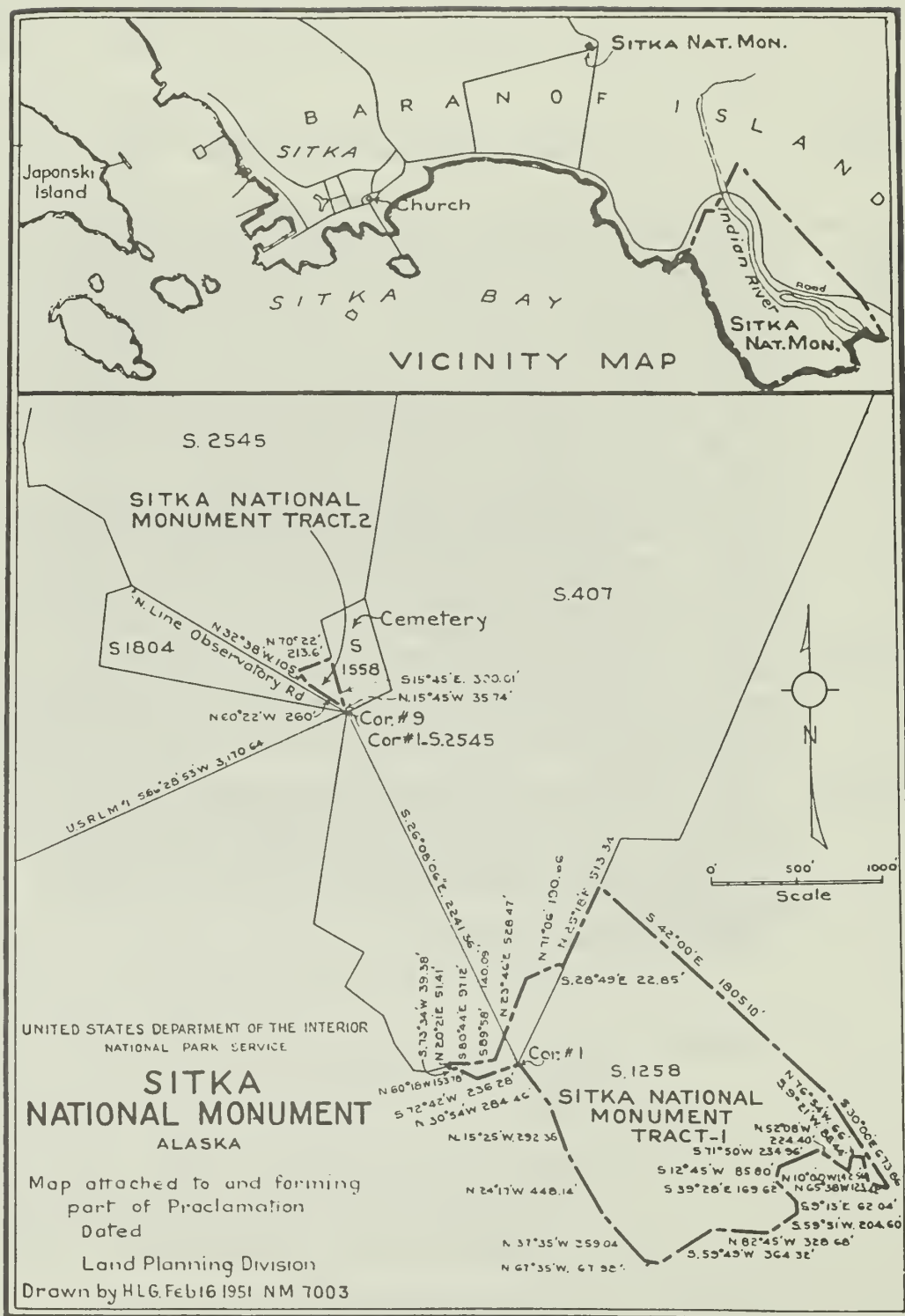
Administration.

SEC. 2. The Sitka National Monument is hereby redesignated as the Sitka National Historical Park, and it shall be administered, protected, and maintained by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4), as amended and supplemented, and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

Appropriation.

SEC. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$140,000 for land acquisition and \$691,000 (June 1971 prices) for development, plus or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in construction costs as indicated by engineering cost indexes applicable to the types of construction involved herein.

Approved October 18, 1972.



APPENDIX C
BOUNDARY AND OTHER MAPS

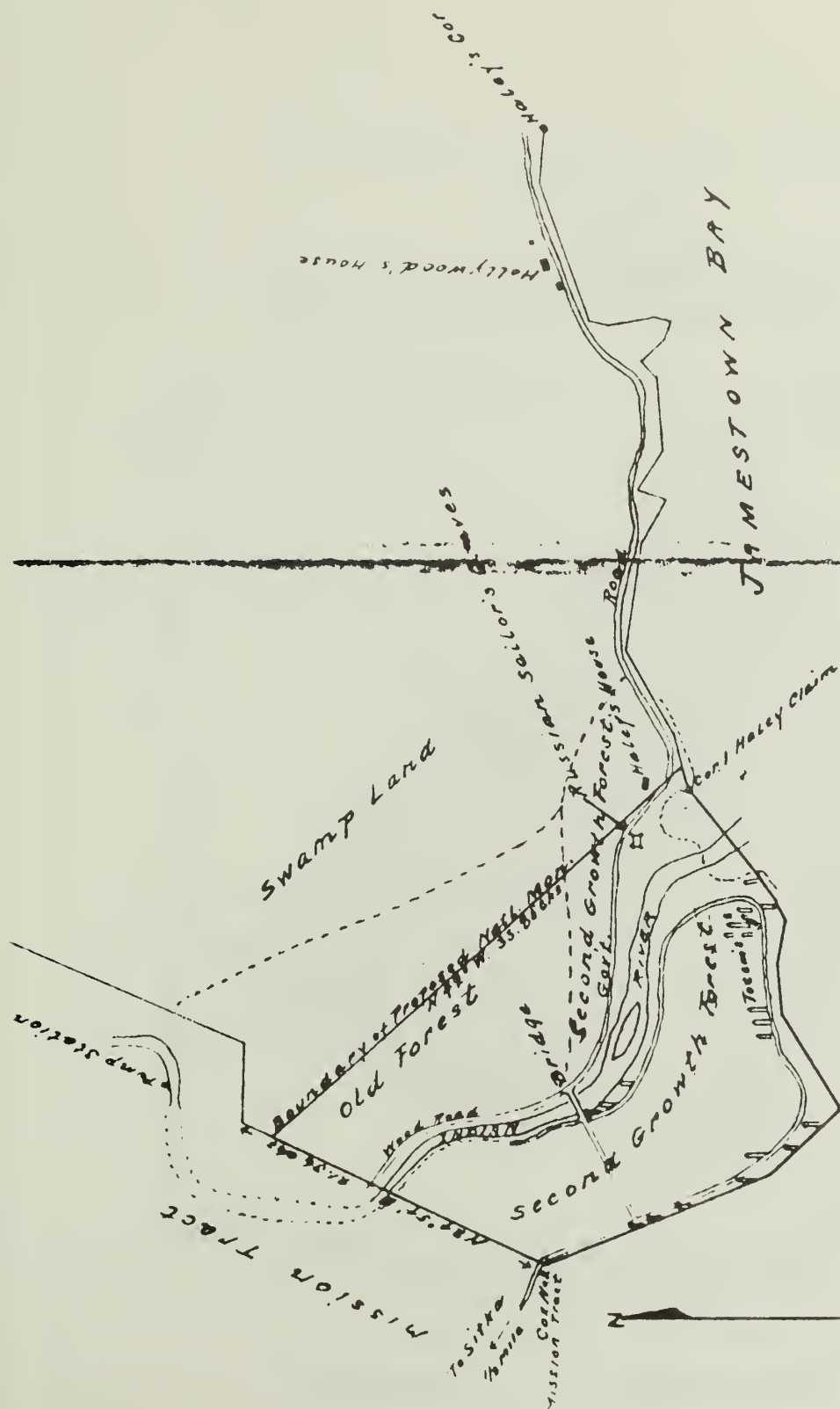
<u>Map</u>	<u>Date</u>
Indian River Park	1892
Proposed Sitka National Monument	11/12/1908
Sitka National Monument	03/23/1910
Sitka National Monument Restoration Plan	07/05/1945
Sitka National Monument Additions	02/25/1952
Sitka National Monument Excavation plan	1958
Sitka National Monument Proposed and existing gravel operations	05/04/1960
Sitka National Monument Erosion Control Project	09/26/1961
Sitka National Monument Additions	10/18/1972

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix C - Boundary and Other Maps



PUBLIC PARK AT INDIAN RIVER
(Extract of U.S. Coast & Geodetic
Survey Chart No. 8245, dated 1892)

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix C - Boundary and Other Maps



JAMESTOWN BAY

PROPOSED SITKA NATIONAL MONUMENT
BARANOF ISLAND ALASKA
Area 57.1 ACRES

Scale 8 inches = 1 mile

Survey by

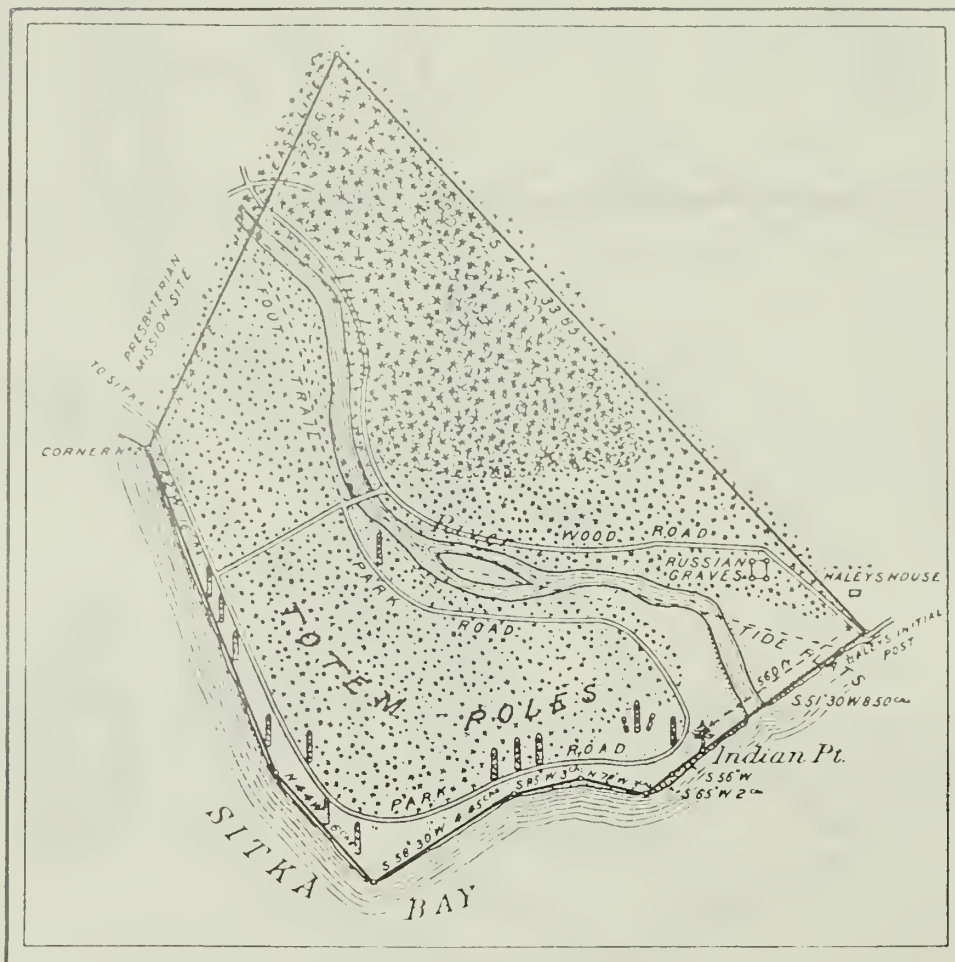
W. Langille
Forest Supervisor

November 10-12,

1908

SITKA NATIONAL MONUMENT ALASKA

*Embracing a tract of land which includes the
mouth of Indian River and adjacent territory
near Sitka, containing about fifty seven acres.*

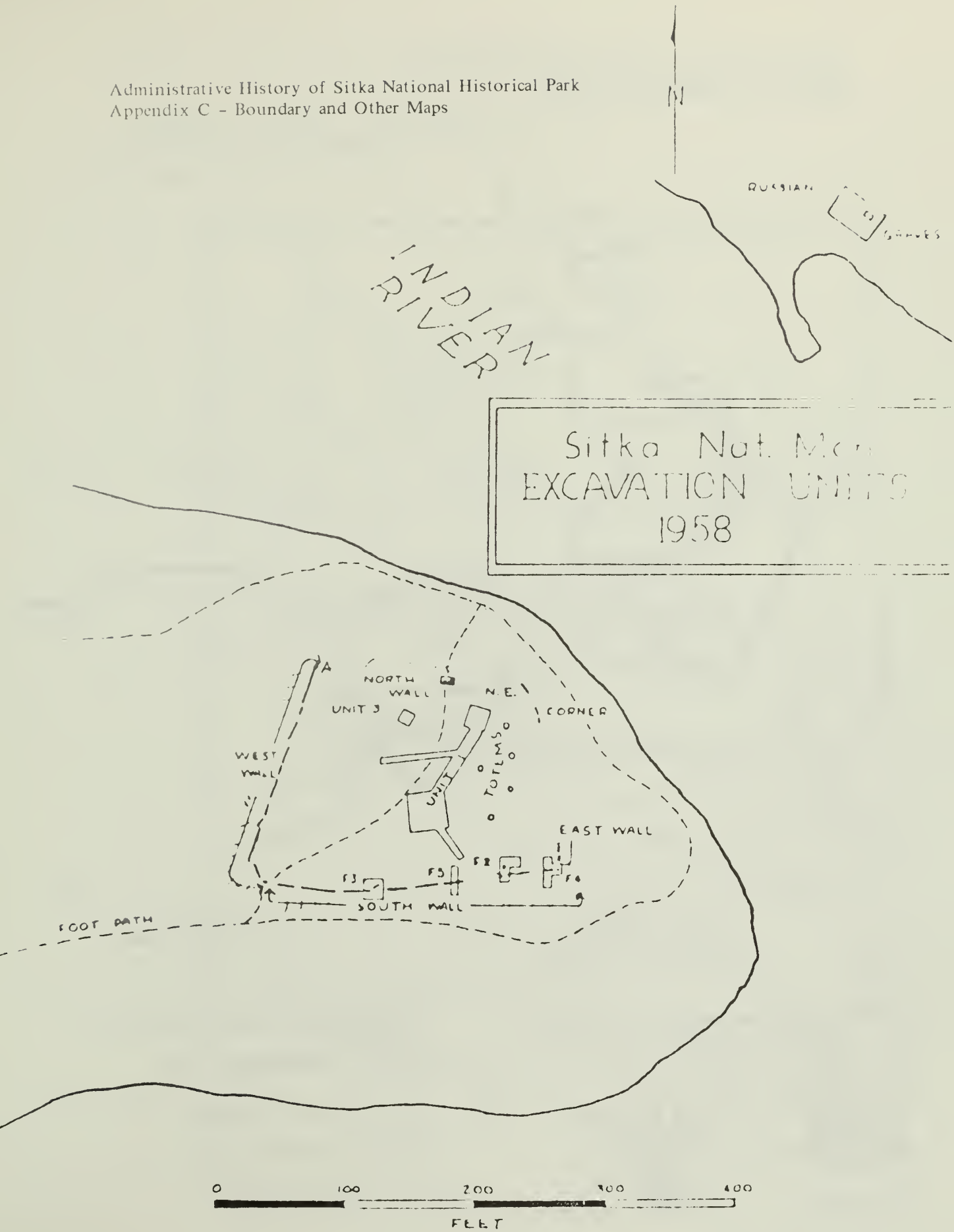


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE

1910

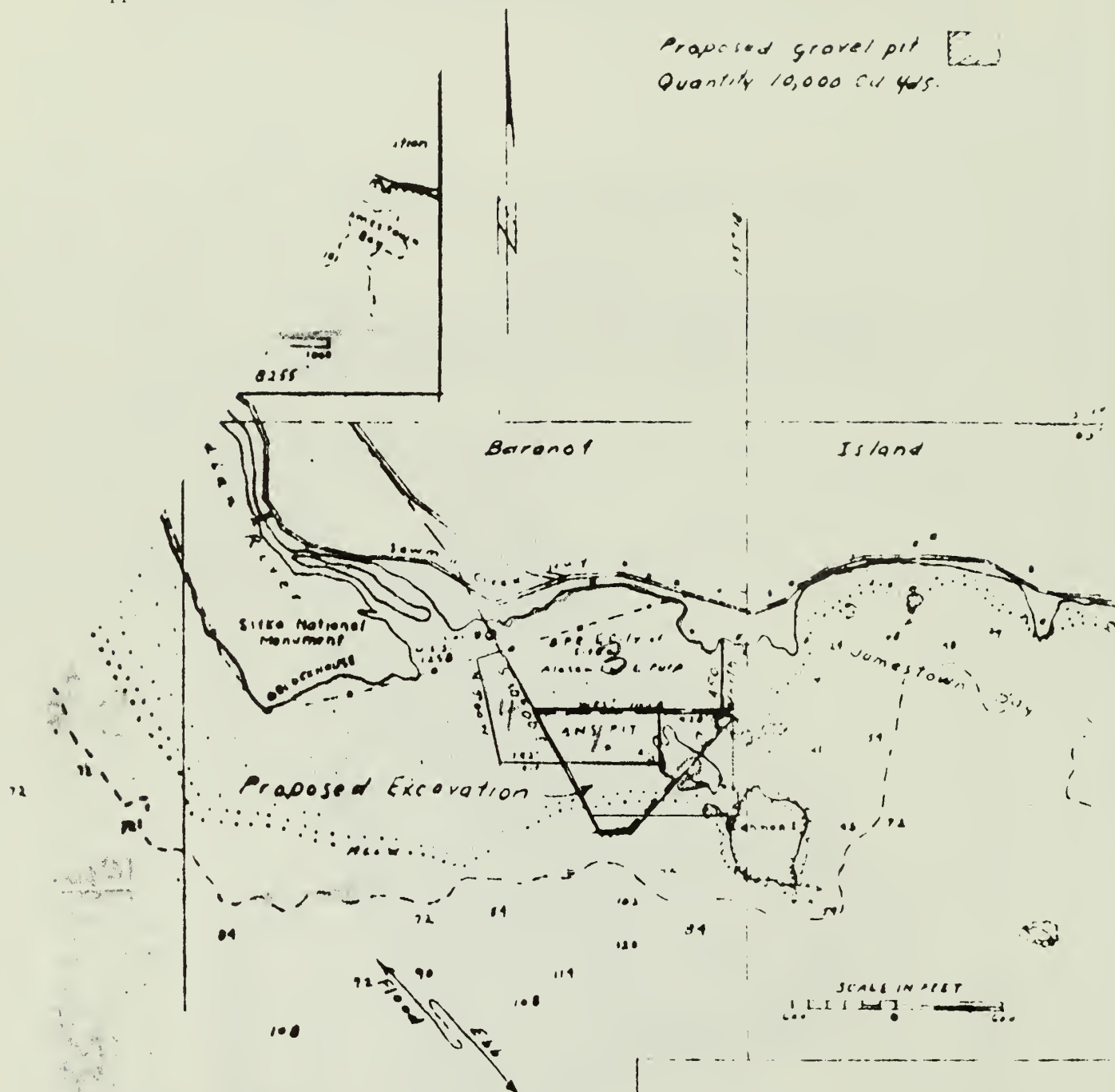
Fred Dennett, Commissioner

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix C - Boundary and Other Maps



Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park

Appendix C - Boundary and Other Maps



No Harbor Lines Established

1. - Public Health Service
2. - Fred Pinson Co
3. - Dept of Highways - City
4. - John C Miller

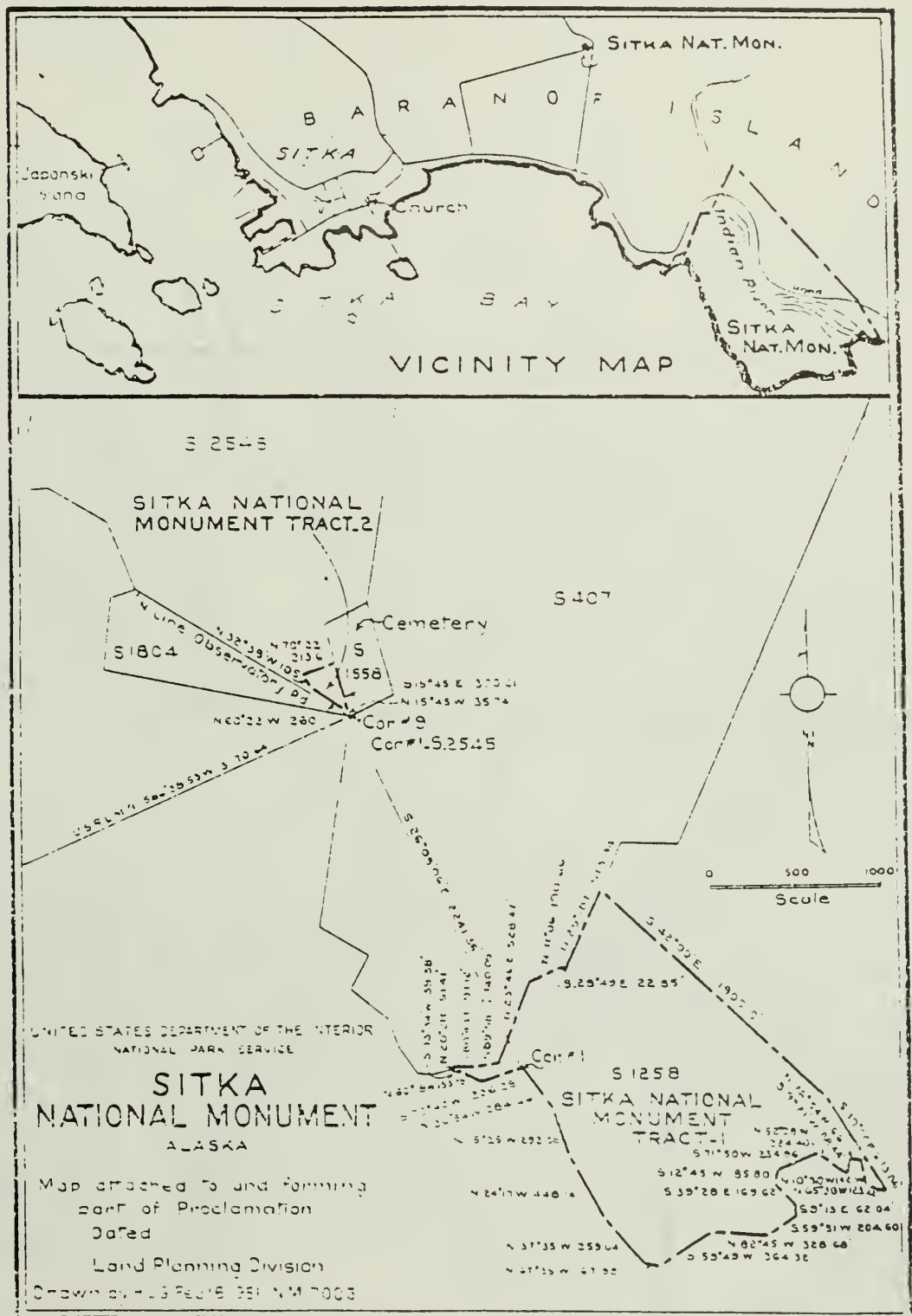
Proposed Gravel Excavation

In: Jamestown Bay
Near the Mouth of the Inian R.
SIKA, ALASKA

By: FRED PINSON CO.

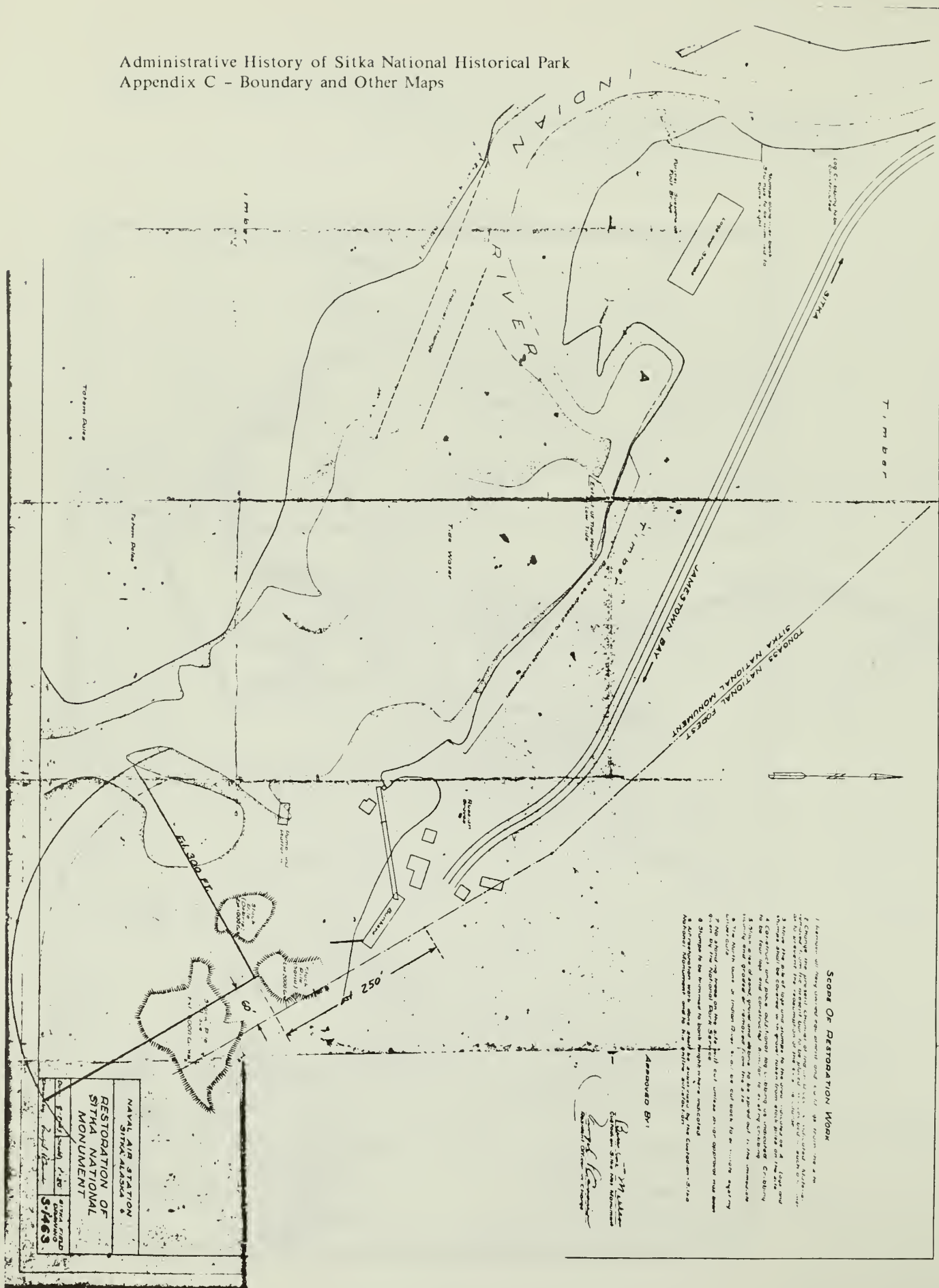
Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park

Appendix C – Boundary and Other Maps



Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park

Appendix C – Boundary and Other Maps

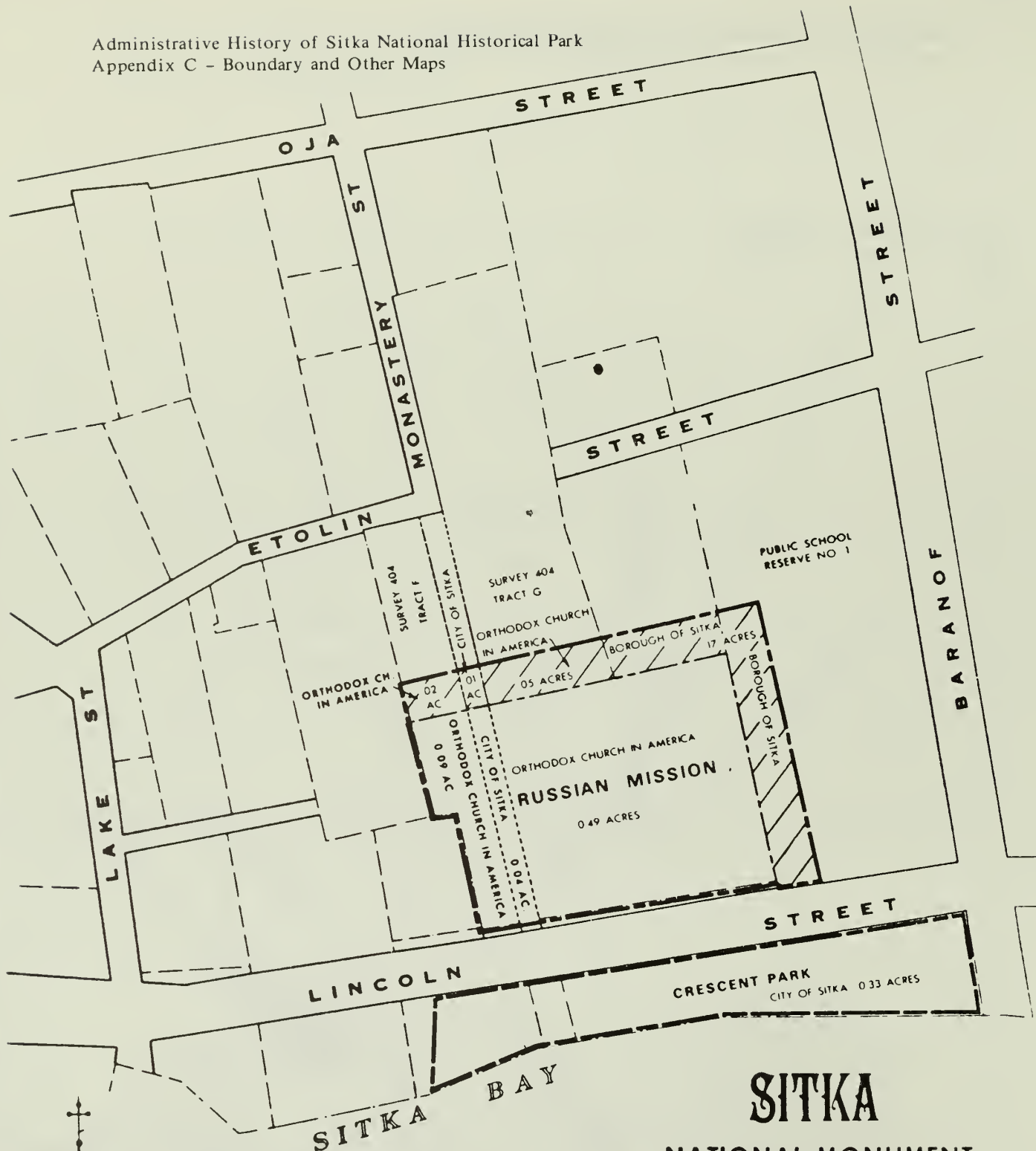


Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix C - Boundary and Other Maps

EROSION CONTROL PROJECT
SITKA NATIONAL MONUMENT
1961



Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix C - Boundary and Other Maps



SITKA

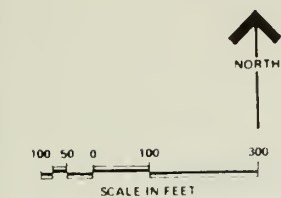
**NATIONAL MONUMENT
SITKA ALASKA**

**RUSSIAN MISSION
PROPOSED ADDITION**

SHEET 2 OF 2

314 70.0038
MAY 72 DSC

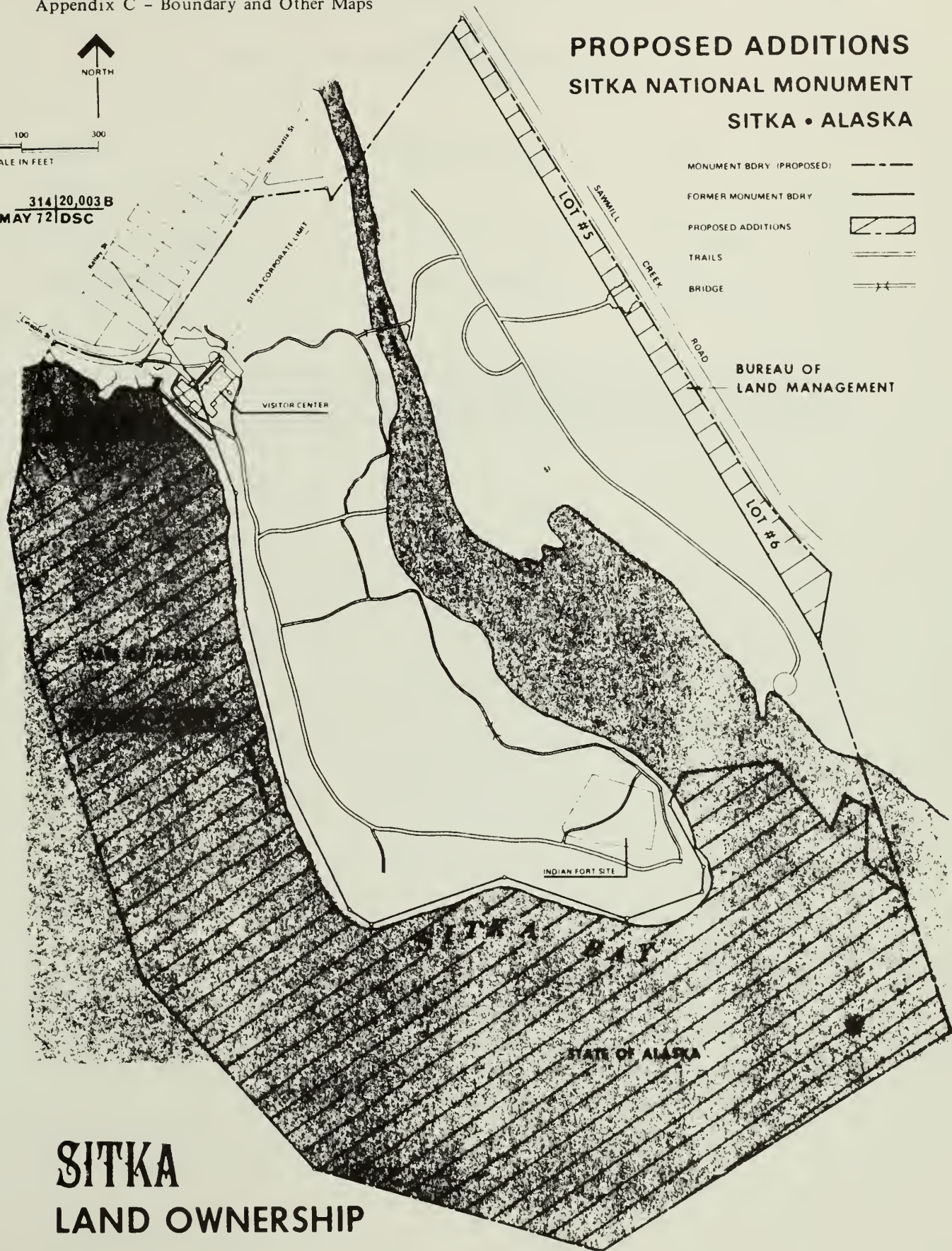
Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix C - Boundary and Other Maps



314|20,003B
SHEET 1 OF 2 MAY 72|DSC

**PROPOSED ADDITIONS
SITKA NATIONAL MONUMENT
SITKA • ALASKA**

- MONUMENT BDY (PROPOSED)
- FORMER MONUMENT BDY
- PROPOSED ADDITIONS
- TRAILS
- BRIDGE



**SITKA
LAND OWNERSHIP**

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix D - Key On-Site Managing Personnel, 1910 to 1940

APPENDIX D
KEY ON-SITE MANAGING PERSONNEL 1910 - 1940

<u>Person</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>
Merrill, Elbridge Warren	*	Custodian
Trierschield, Peter	11/10/22-07/09/37	Custodian
Trierschield, John	08/23/37-01/23/40	Custodian

*Merrill was offered an appointment as custodian in 1918 and apparently did some work at the monument for which he received payment, but never returned the necessary appointment forms and thus was never officially on Park Service rolls.

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix E - Key NPS Personnel, 1940 to Present

APPENDIX E
KEY NPS PERSONNEL, 1940 TO PRESENT

<u>Person</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>
Miller, Ben C.	1940-1947	Custodian
Pearson, Grant H.	1947-1949	Custodian
Miller, Ben C.	1949-1953	Superintendent
Schmidt, Henry B.	1953-1957	Superintendent
Hall, George A.	1959-1963	Park Historian
Warner, Charles W.	1963	Park Historian
Ingersoll, William T.	1964-1966	Park Historian
Geerdes, Raymond	1966-1968	Park Historian
Kuehn, Daniel	1969-1973	Superintendent
Ruesch, Vernon	1973	Superintendent
Lang, Ellen H.	1974-1978	Superintendent
Edelstein, Susan	1978-1980	Superintendent
Suazo, Ernest	1980-present	Superintendent

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix F - Visitor Statistics

APPENDIX F
VISITOR STATISTICS
(in thousands)

1913	10.0		
		1931	8.0
1914	12.0		
		1932	6.5
1915	10.0		
		1933	1.4
1916	10.0		
		1934	5.0
1917	NA		
		1935	7.0
1918	NA		
		1936	6.7
1919	NA		
		1937	4.5
1920	NA		
		1938	5.0
1921	NA		
		1939	5.0
1922	NA		
		1940	5.0
1923	NA		
		1941	9.6
1924	NA		
		1942	8.8
1925	NA		
		1943	4.3
1926	2.5		
		1944	4.6
1927	3.0		
		1945	4.1
1928	3.0		
		1946	2.6
1929	3.5		
		1947	2.7
1930	3.0		

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix F - Visitor Statistics

1948	9.3	1969	39.5
1949	6.5	1970	61.9
1950	6.7	1971	45.0
1951	7.0	1972	38.0
1952	4.8	1973	48.0
1953	10.9	1974	64.0
1954	11.1	1975	77.0
1955	9.4	1976	81.6
1956	10.4	1977	87.2
1957	11.3	1978	86.1
1958	12.8	1979	72.1
1959	15.7	1980	75.6
1960	15.5	1981	90.5
1961	15.6	1982	90.8
1962	13.6	1983	88.3
1963	18.8		
1964	21.5		
1965	25.8		
1966	38.6		
1967	44.8		
1968	23.8		

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix F - Visitor Statistics

1984	112.2
1985	121.1
1986	114.6

NA = Not Available

Source: Humphrey, Donald W., Acting Chief, Division of Long Range Planning, National Park Service, January 18, 1973, to Project Leader, Alaska Task Force, National Park Service; File H2621, "Superintendents Annual Reports," at Sitka National Historical Park.

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix G - Itemization of Management Plans

APPENDIX G
ITEMIZATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS

Alaska Field Committee

- 1949 "A six year integrated program for the Department of the Interior in Alaska," July 1949, in Alaska Collection, Harper's Ferry Center, National Park Service.

Hall, George A.

- 1959 "Sitka National Historical Park Draft Handbook," in alphabetical reference files, Sitka National Historical Park.
- 1961 "Interpretive prospectus for Sitka National Monument, Alaska," August 1961, in Alaska Collection, at Harper's Ferry Center, National Park Service.

Ingersoll, William T.

- 1964 "Master plan of Sitka National Monument," September 15, 1964, in Alaska Collection, at Harper's Ferry Center, National Park Service.

Mitchell, Leone T.

- 1965 "Master plan brief for Sitka National Monument," December 3, 1965, in Alaska Collection, Harper's Ferry Center, National Park Service.

National Park Service

- 1956 "Mission 66 prospectus brief," April 20, 1956, in "Master plan narrative - Sitka," Vols. I and III, 1964, in Alaska Collection, Harper's Ferry Center, National Park Service.

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix G - Itemization of Management Plans

- 1957 "Mission 66 prospectus brief - Sitka and Glacier Bay National Monuments," February 1, 1957, in "Master plan narrative - Sitka," Vols. I and III, 1964, in Alaska Collection, Harper's Ferry Center, National Park Service.
- 1959 "Master plan narrative for Sitka National Monument," October 26, 1959, in File D18, Planning program and master plan 1956 - 1960, numerical/subject files, Sitka National Historical Park.
- 1961 "Interpretive prospectus [Sitka]," August 1961, microfiche D -- 2, Denver Service Center, National Park Service.
- 1964 "Master plan narrative for Sitka National Monument, Chapter 2, Objectives," September 23, 1964, in File D18, Planning program and master plan 1956 - 1960, numerical/subject files, Sitka National Historical Park.
- 1964 "Master plan of Sitka National Monument, Chapter 3, Management Program Narratives," December 4, 1964, in File D18, Planning program and master plan 1956 - 1960, numerical/subject file, Sitka National Historical Park.
- 1964 "Master plan narrative - Sitka," Vols. I and III, 1964, in Alaska Collection, Harper's Ferry Center, National Park Service.
- 1968 "Alternatives study for proposed additions to Sitka National Historical Park," May 1968, in Richard Stenmark File, Alaska Collection, Harper's Ferry Center, National Park Service.
- 1972 "Interpretive prospectus [Sitka]," October 1972, microfiche D1102A, Denver Service Center, National Park Service.
- 1976 "Outline of planning requirements [Sitka]," May 5, 1976, microfiche D 10, Denver Service Center, National Park Service.

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix G - Itemization of Management Plans

- 1976 "Interpretive prospectus [Sitka]," October 1976, microfiche D1102, Denver Service Center, National Park Service.
- 1976 "Statement for management [Sitka]," October 26, 1976, microfiche D 9, Denver Service Center, National Park Service.
- 1981 "Interpretive prospectus [Sitka]," December 4, 1981, microfiche D1102B, Denver Service Center, National Park Service.
- 1982 "Resource management plan -- Sitka National Historical Park," in numerical/subject files, D18, Sitka National Historical Park.
- 1983 "Statement for Management [Sitka]," February 18, 1983, microfiche D 9A, Denver Service Center, National Park Service.

Stanton, William J.

- 1953 "Alaska recreation survey," Part I -Volume I, "Economic aspects of recreation in Alaska," in Alaska Collection, Harper's Ferry Center, National Park Service.

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix H - Operating Budgets Since 1938

APPENDIX H
OPERATING BUDGETS SINCE 1938 BY FISCAL YEAR
(in thousands)

1938	.62	1973	NA
1939	.70	1974	NA
1940	2.90	1975	NA
1941	NA	1976	NA
1942	NA	1977	NA
1943	NA	1978	NA
1944	NA	1979	NA
1945	NA		
1946	NA		
1947	NA		
1948	NA		
1949	NA		
1950	NA		
1951	NA		
1952	NA		
1953	NA		
1954	NA	1980	NA
1955	NA	1981	90.0
1956	NA	1982	325.1
1957	NA	1983	NA
1958	NA	1984	432.5
1959	NA	1985	514.9
1960	NA		
1961	NA		
1962	NA		
1963	NA		
1964	NA		
1965	NA		
1966	NA		
1967	NA		
1968	NA		
1969	NA		
1970	NA		
1971	NA		
1972	NA		

NA = Not Available

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix I - Dates, Locations, Acreages of Boundary Changes

APPENDIX I
DATES, LOCATIONS, ACREAGES
OF
BOUNDARY CHANGES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Location</u>
Designation as public park	6/21/1890	Unknown	-
Designation as national monument monument	3/23/1910	53.45	-
Withdrawal for administrative headquarters site	2/25/1952	.88	1 mi. n. monument
	boundary		
Purchase	6/02/1953	1.10	west boundary
Purchase	5/20/1954	.19	west boundary
Hobson purchase	2/09/1955	.19	entrance area
Bailey purchase	8/03/1955	.12	entrance area
Zuboff purchase	5/28/1956	.12	entrance area
Littlefield purchase	8/20/1963	.172	entrance

Administrative History of Sitka National Historical Park
Appendix I - Dates, Locations, Acreages of Boundary Changes

Designation
as national
historical
park with
additions

10/18/1972

1.369

Lincoln Street

Source: "Master plan for preservation and use of Sitka National Monument," February 15, 1962, Volume III, in files of Sitka National Monument; "Sitka National Historical Park," (summary of reservation history), April 24, 1986, in File A2623, Sitka National Historical Park.

